ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-seventh Meeting
Bonn, Germany

PROPOSAL FOR ADAPTATION FUND CLIMATE INNOVATION ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME
DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA (CAFVE)

Funding Proposal Template for Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) fully developed programme proposals

PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION: AFCIA PROGRAMMES

REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

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

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

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

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
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MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
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MULTI/ REGIONAL INNOVATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION[1]

Title of Project/Programme:	Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in LAC
Geographic Scope:	Multi/Regional (CAF member countries)
Thematic Focal Area[2]:	Innovative adaptation financing
Type of Implementing Entity:	Regional Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity:	CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
Executing Entities:	IICA
Amount of Financing Requested:	USD 8,000,000.00 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Contents

[1] Key policy documents: programme on innovation: operational policy and guidance to the adaptation fund climate innovation accelerator (afcia) implementing entities,
Guidance to implementing entities for application of innovation indicators for fully developed project/programme proposals provides guidance on the new indicators that should be referenced when presenting alignment of project objectives and outcomes with the Fund level strategic outcome for innovation (Outcome 8).

[2] 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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Summary

1. The AFCIA program proposed by CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO aims to catalyze innovative, scalable, and socially just solutions for the agricultural systems most vulnerable to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a centralized and multi-stakeholder implementation modality, the program will identify, strengthen, and accelerate partnerships between science and communities through open and competitive calls, which will award small grants of up to USD 250,000 to at least 20 innovative projects, accompanied by personalized technical assistance and a rigorous process of independent external evaluation. The innovations promoted—technological, institutional, and social—will be aligned with national adaptation priorities and aimed at generating tangible benefits for small and medium-sized producers, indigenous peoples, women, and youth. A structured knowledge management component will document, systematize, and disseminate lessons learned across countries, linking with the global learning platform of AFCIA and contributing to Expected Results 1 and 3 of the MTS-II in terms of innovation and knowledge. Through this comprehensive approach, the program seeks to strengthen the resilience of territories, expand local capacities to address the impacts of climate change, and consolidate a regional ecosystem more conducive to innovation in adaptation.

A. Project / Programme Background and Context:

Describe the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve. Write this as a concise problem statement: The current situation, the desired future, and the gap between the two. Provide brief further information on the current situation including the regional perspective. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate in the target regions. Describe the climate change vulnerabilities impacting the region/regions as well clearly explain the problem area that would Rbe the focus of the innovation.

Climate Context

2. The Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC (AR6, 2023)[3] and the report 'State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024' by the WMO (2025)[4] confirm that the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is highly exposed and vulnerable to climate change, with impacts that are already being manifested in multiple natural and human systems. Among the main identified risks are tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves, all of which have potential impacts on health, livelihoods, the economy, the environment, and the availability of natural resources. In particular, the growing impact of precipitation variability and extreme temperatures is highlighted, directly affecting agricultural production and compromising food security. The study 'Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Index in Latin America and the Caribbean,' conducted by CAF in 2014[5], highlights the severe consequences that the region could face due to climate change. Given that the region's climate has already begun to experience variations, more significant climate changes are expected in the coming decades. These risks are projected to intensify and become even more serious threats, especially for rural livelihoods, small and medium primary producers, and Indigenous peoples in mountainous areas. The expected effects include a reduction in agricultural and livestock production, loss of arable land, and decreased water availability, severely disrupting supply chains and significantly affecting food availability, income, and the stability of rural livelihoods.
3. The agrifood systems in LAC are highly climate-sensitive, primarily affecting the livelihoods of people who depend directly on these activities (rural communities, small farmers, fishers). Agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing, represent 7% of the regional GDP and 14% of employment (2019 data)[6]. According to FAO (2016)[7], between 2003 and 2013, the primary sector in the region absorbed 16% of the losses and damage caused by natural disasters. Of this total, 6% corresponded to damages in physical assets, while 23% was related to production losses and direct impacts on livelihoods. Within the sector, crops accounted for 71% of the impacts, followed by forests (13%), livestock (10%), and fishing (6%). Floods were responsible for 55% of these losses, followed by droughts (27%) and storms (10%). On average, sector growth was reduced by 2.7% annually due to climate disasters during this period.
4. Between 2005 and 2015, the FAO (2018)[8] estimates that over 22 billion dollars were lost in the region due to decreased agricultural and livestock production attributed to extreme climate events, with droughts being the costliest, accounting for an estimated 13 billion dollars in losses.
5. The WMO (2025)[9] indicates that in 2024, in Central America and the Caribbean, abnormally high temperatures increased the incidence of pests and diseases, which multiplied costs for farmers with limited investment capacity. This was compounded by water shortages for irrigation, due to irregular rainfall associated with the El Niño phenomenon, followed by intense rainfall that delayed planting dates, reduced incomes, and increased losses from floods and landslides. Additionally, hurricanes Beryl, Oscar, and Rafael caused significant damage to both producers and the food supply. More recently, in October 2025,

[3] IPCC, 2023: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 1-34, Doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.001

[4] World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 2025. State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024 OMM-N° 1367

[5] CAF. (2014). Índice de vulnerabilidad y adaptación al cambio climático en la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Caracas: CAF. Available at: https://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/517

[6] De Miguel, Carlos J.; Lorenzo, Santiago; Alatorre, José Eduardo; Gómez, José Javier; Ferrer, Jimy; Rezza, Lucía; Fernández Sepúlveda, Ignacio. Necesidades de financiamiento y objetivos climáticos en América Latina y el Caribe. CEPAL 2024.

[7] FAO, América Latina y el Caribe busca reducir el riesgo de desastres en la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria. 2016. Available at: https://www.fao.org/guatemala/noticias/detail-events/ar/c/418144/

[8] FAO, “The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security.” 2018. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0f03a24f-8d37-4700-aef4-fc436ff32021/content

[9] World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 2025. Estado del clima en América Latina y el Caribe 2024 OMM-N° 1367

Hurricane Melissa devastated extensive agricultural areas in Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti, destroying crops, affecting fisheries, and leaving rural communities without livelihoods, highlighting the enormous impact that extreme events can have on the agricultural sector. In South America, droughts and wildfires severely impacted crops, pastures, forests, and fishing communities, affecting dairy production, and delaying the planting of various crops. At the same time, other countries in the region experienced river floods that led to major losses in crops, livestock, and fishing. The El Niño phenomenon also affected marine fishing in 11 of the 19 main fishing areas identified by the FAO. The impacts were both negative and positive, varying by geographic areas, target species, and types of fishing or aquaculture.

6. Ortiz-Bobea et al. (2021) [10], for their part, estimate that the slowdown in total factor productivity growth in the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean has resulted in a 25.9% decline since 1961 due to climate change.
7. A study by the IDB (2020)[11] projects that by 2050, regional agricultural production could decrease by 7.5 percentage points (pp), the planted area by 1.2 pp, and production by 5.2 pp, compared to a scenario without climate change. These projections would result in higher prices, trade deficits in the food market, and a decline below the critical ratio between food supply and demand.
8. In 2023, 28.2% of the population in the region (187.6 million people) suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity. This regional prevalence was below the global estimate; however, the figure rises to 58.8% in the Caribbean[12]. Severe food insecurity affected 8.7% of the population in the region (58.1 million people), and in the Caribbean, the prevalence was 28.6% (12.8 million people). Although significant progress was made in reducing the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity —which decreased for the second consecutive year— significant inequalities persist, with marked differences between subregions and population subgroups. The gender gap in moderate or severe food insecurity in LAC was 5.2 percentage points (pp) in 2023, compared to a gap of 1.3 pp globally. Additionally, this form of food insecurity was 6.2 pp higher in rural areas than in urban areas of the region. In 2022, LAC recorded the highest average cost in the world for a healthy diet, estimated at USD 4.56 in purchasing power parity (PPP) per person per day. The Caribbean was the subregión with the highest cost within the region, at USD 5.16 PPP per person per day.[13]
9. In this context of reduced agricultural productivity, disruptions in supply chains, rising food prices, and lower access to healthy diets, ensuring food security and the stability of rural livelihoods will require sustainably increasing agricultural production, not only by boosting productivity but also by protecting and regenerating key ecosystem services essential for the sector's resilience.
10. Considering these challenges, the Adaptation Fund's AFCIA programme represents a strategic opportunity to support innovative, locally driven solutions that enhance the adaptive capacity of productive sectors to climate change. Its approach aligns closely with CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy[14], which prioritizes sustainable productivity, climate resilience, and improved rural well-being across its member countries, providing a regional framework to guide investment, innovation, and adaptation actions in the agricultural sector, as well as FONTAGRO's Medium-Term Plan (2025/2030) [15], whose agenda focuses on sustainability, resilience, and equity in the LAC agrifood sector.

Vulnerability of the agricultural sector in LAC

11. In the region, rural inclusion and resilience are threatened by persistent issues such as rural poverty and structural inequality, as well as by emerging factors that influence resource allocation, including climate

[10] Ortiz-Bobea, A., Ault, T.R., Carrillo, C.M. *et al.* Anthropogenic climate change has slowed global agricultural productivity growth. *Nat.Clim. Chang.* 11, 306–312 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-021-01000-1

[11] Prager SD; Rios AR; Schiek B; Almeida JS; González CE; 2020. Climate change vulnerability and economic impacts in the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. IDB Technical Note IDB-TN-01915. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Cali, Colombia.

[12] FAO, FIDA, OPS, PMA y UNICEF. 2025. América Latina y el Caribe. Panorama regional de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición 2024: Fomentando la resiliencia frente a la variabilidad del clima y los eventos extremos para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. Santiago. Available at: https://doi.org/10.4060/cd3877es

[13] FAO, 2025. AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE. Panorama regional de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0556ea9c-65bb-46e9-aa6b-39fdeb8afbe7/content/cd3877en.html

[14] CAF, 2025. Prosperidad Agropecuaria. La nueva estrategia de CAF para la producción agropecuaria sostenible, resiliente y regenerativa, que contribuya a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, en América Latina y el Caribe, una región de soluciones para los desafíos globales.

[15] FONTRAGRO 2025. Plan de Mediano Plazo (2025/2030). Available at: PMP_2025_2030_ESP_1b20df2b10.pdf

change, environmental degradation, gender inequalities, agrifood system transitions, and rapid technological change[16]. In LAC, the effects of climate change will be amplified by these inequalities and by the persistence of poverty[17], in a context where the region faces a double burden of hunger and malnutrition, and where food security shows strong territorial and socioeconomic disparities

Family farming and land tenure

12. The region is characterized by high levels of land fragmentation —with a predominance of small agricultural holdings— and by an unequal distribution of land combined with frequently informal tenure. This set of factors increases productivity gaps, limits access to credit, and reduces investment opportunities for smaller-scale producers, which in turn hinders rural development and climate-adaptation capacity.
13. In this context, family farming constitutes a central social and economic pillar of the agrifood systems in LAC[18]. It represents 81.4% of agricultural holdings and occupies 25.3% of the agricultural area[19]. Agriculture continues to be the main source of rural employment, accounting for 52.5% of total rural employment in 2021 (ECLAC, 2023). Moreover, family farms occupy 80% of agricultural land and produce 77% of the region's food[20], underscoring their importance for food security and territorial resilience.
14. However, family farming has a highly heterogeneous and unequal structure, with farms of different sizes, subsectors, and levels of technical and productive capacity —including subsistence, transitional, and consolidated units— which face distinct challenges and needs[21]. The distribution pattern accentuates this heterogeneity: 62.7% of all farms in the region are five hectares or smaller, while only 4.5% exceed 100 hectares; however, the latter account for nearly 80% of the total land area occupied by farms.

Labor informality and rural poverty

15. Vulnerable rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean are characterized by high levels of economic and labor **informality**, limited economic autonomy for women, and significant financing and gender gaps. These structural conditions amplify vulnerability to climate change and reduce the capacity of rural households to anticipate, absorb, and recover from extreme climate events.
16. Rural labor informality averages 68.5% in the region, according to ILO and ECLAC estimates[22], meaning that roughly seven out of ten workers lack formal contracts, social security, and legal protection. Informality is closely linked to persistent **poverty:** over half of the rural population lives below the poverty line[23], and among poor rural households, less than half have access to formal employment; in some contexts, only 2% manage to enter the formal labor market[24]. This situation limits productive investment capacity, reduces access to technology and services, and increases exposure to climate-related losses.

Gender disparities and agricultural inequalities

17. The **gender dimension** exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. According to the Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change (IICA, 2015), rural women—despite their fundamental role in agricultural production, food security, and natural resource management—face persistent structural gaps that limit their economic autonomy. Their contributions remain underestimated in agricultural statistics and are scarcely

[16] FAO, 2025. Inclusive rural transformations in Latin America Reassessing and planning under pressures and constraints. FAO Inclusive Agrifood Systems Working Papers No. 2. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd4580en
[17] IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). 2022. Fact Sheet: Central and South America – Climate Change Impacts and Risks. (IPCC Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.) Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FactSheet_CentralSouthAmerica.pdf
[18] Family farming is a way of organizing agricultural, forestry, fishery, livestock and aquaculture production that is managed and administered by a family and depends mainly on the capital and labour of its members, both women and men. The family and the farm are interrelated, evolve together and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions (FAO and IFAD, 2019).
[19] FAO. 2025. Characterization of family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges, evidence and perspectives. Santiago, FAO. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3788en
[20] Ibidem
[21] Ibidem
[22] OIT-CEPAL. 2023. Dinámicas del mercado de trabajo rural y el empleo informal en la pospandemia. Coyuntura laboral en América Latina y El Caribe.
[23] CEPAL. 21 de Agosto de 2012. CEPAL. Available at: https://surl.li/faiwmj
[24] CEPAL-OIT-FAO. 2012. Políticas de mercado de trabajo y pobreza rural en América Latina. Santiago de Chile: CEPAL.

reflected in public policies, even though they actively participate in planting, crop management, seed handling, processing, and local marketing.

18. Although female labor participation is lower than male, rural women face particular disadvantages: they make up around 20% of the region's agricultural workforce[25], yet are concentrated in the most vulnerable and informal segments. Their employment is often under precarious conditions, with low incomes and unpaid roles in family units, perpetuating inequalities and limiting their economic resilience.
19. It is estimated that around 78% of rural women participate in agricultural activities between the ages of 15 and 59, and in areas with a high indigenous population, a significant proportion of girls under 15 also engage in productive work. However, unequal access to productive resources persists: in general, rural and indigenous women face limited access to land, with fewer property or tenure rights over agricultural holdings. Their land is often smaller in size or of lower quality. According to the UN and RCP (2024)[26], 58 million women live in rural areas; however, on average, only 30% own agricultural land, which restricts their access to credit, technical assistance, technology, and insurance. In countries such as Paraguay, Honduras, and Guatemala, the lack of formal land ownership prevents access to productive programs, and their predominance in subsistence units increases their exposure to the impacts of climate change.
20. Even when they participate in cooperatives and rural organizations, their influence on decision-making remains limited. The exclusion of informal women producers from training and technical assistance programs—due to schedules, formats, and designs that are not adapted to their conditions—further reduces their capacity to undertake initiatives and adapt, deepening gender gaps in productive systems. [27]
21. Unpaid care work constitutes one of the main structural constraints affecting rural women. They combine productive tasks with the majority of domestic and community responsibilities—including childcare, elder care, and household management—which can result in 12- to 14-hour workdays in contexts such as Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador. This overload limits their access to training, paid employment, and community participation, and is exacerbated under adverse climatic conditions, such as droughts or crop losses. According to UN Women, they spend between two and three times more time than men on unpaid tasks, which directly affects their economic autonomy.
22. Climate change deepens these inequalities. Rural women often face greater exposure to extreme events, soil degradation, and water scarcity, yet have fewer means to anticipate or recover. In the Central American Dry Corridor, for example, they experience higher levels of food insecurity and livelihood loss; in Andean areas of Peru or Bolivia, they have less access to climate information and agricultural extension services. Despite this, rural and indigenous women play a central role in conserving native seeds, diversifying crops, and protecting ecosystems. Their work in watershed management, the recovery of agroecological practices, and the safeguarding of biodiversity makes them key agents for climate resilience and for ensuring food security and sovereignty.

Informality and gaps in specific sectors

23. **Forestry**: In the forestry sector, labor informality is also widespread. Although it represents a smaller portion of rural employment, forestry activities—particularly in native forests of the Amazon, the Andes, and tropical areas—are characterized by precarious conditions, limited regulation, and high occupational risks.
24. At the global level, the ILO classifies forestry as one of the most hazardous sectors with high levels of informality. In several countries in the region, a significant portion of timber extraction is carried out informally or illegally. The lack of precise data makes it difficult to quantify informality accurately, but there is technical consensus that it is high, particularly in logging, transportation, and artisanal sawmilling activities in remote areas.

[25] Ibidem
[26] United Nations (UN) and Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) Latin America and the Caribbean. 2024. Gender Equality Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-05/en-regionalgenderprofile-lac_vf.pdf
[27] Between 1994 and 2010, 12 training voucher programs for microenterprises were implemented in various Latin American countries, with modalities and content relevant to all microenterprises. In all cases, the participation of women was around 80%. Even in the remaining 20%, young people predominated. These programs reached millions of people in total, with an offer of between 100 and 200 training institutions, which provided between 900 and 1300 different courses, depending on the country.

25. Although there are formal segments linked to commercial forest plantations—as in Brazil, Chile, or Uruguay—these coexist with extensive areas of traditional exploitation characterized by high informality. The regulatory and institutional capacity gaps contribute to the persistence of these practices.
26. Female participation in forestry is minimal. Unlike agriculture, the forestry workforce is predominantly male. Women usually engage in nurseries, reforestation, or value-added activities, but generally under informal and low-paid conditions. Gender gaps in the sector are primarily evident in access to employment opportunities.
27. **Fishing and aquaculture:** The fisheries sector, particularly its artisanal segment, also exhibits high levels of informality. Approximately 2.4 million people work in capture fisheries and another 400,000 in aquaculture in the region[28], two-thirds of whom are engaged in artisanal fishing characterized by low incomes, lack of social protection, and limited formalization.
28. Artisanal fishing functions as a subsistence activity or small-scale enterprise, with incomes dependent on daily catches and volatile markets. Most artisanal fishers are independent workers not affiliated with social protection systems, and their vessels are often unregistered, which deepens informality and limits access to financing and insurance.
29. In this sector, women represent around 30% of the workforce in capture fisheries and are predominant in processing, collection, and local marketing activities. However, they are often concentrated in the most vulnerable links of the fisheries value chain—cleaning, filleting, and retail sales—and frequently perform unpaid or very low-paid work. This occupational segregation limits their economic resilience and exposes them more severely to the impacts of climate change.
30. These structural inequalities are reflected in the fact that virtually all women working in the agricultural sector do so under informal conditions, with limited access to land, credit, inputs, and technical assistance. This combination of factors reduces their adaptive capacity, hinders their participation in value chains, and restricts the development of rural female entrepreneurship.

Financing gaps

31. According to the World Bank, current evidence shows that, on average, just over 45% of small enterprises have access to credit from formal financial institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. This low level of access contrasts with the situation of large enterprises, whose access to formal credit is 1.5 times higher than that of small businesses.[29]
32. This gap becomes even more pronounced in rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, where critical limitations in access to financing persist due to high climate risk, economic informality, and the limited capacity of financial systems to serve small-scale producers. Not only is formal rural credit scarce, but the informal microcredit market—largely focused on urban commerce—barely operates in rural areas, despite high demand and the good repayment record observed among informal women producers. In this context, available financing is usually limited to very short-term loans provided by input suppliers, while risk financing in forms such as seed capital, angel investment, or venture capital is virtually nonexistent.
33. In response to these limitations, the governments of the region and international cooperation have intervened through multiple financial instruments, generally with high levels of subsidy. There are sectoral funds from multilateral organizations—such as the IDB, CAF, World Bank, IFAD, and CABEI—special credit lines from national agricultural banks and international financial institutions, as well as loans from cooperatives and municipal savings banks. Targeted innovation mechanisms also operate, such as competitions and awards from FONTAGRO or seed programs promoted by regional organizations like CABEI.
34. However, this diversity of sources does not translate into transformative impacts at the territorial level. The available amounts remain insufficient to meet the scale of rural demand, and many instruments exclude smaller-scale informal producers due to requirements for formalization, collateral, or credit history. As a result, a large portion of the vulnerable rural population remains outside the financial system, limiting their capacity to invest in innovation, productive diversification, and climate change adaptation measures.

[28] SELA. 7 de 12 de 2021. SELA. Obtenido de Degradación ambiental amenaza el empleo en América Latina: https://surl.li/pgusik
[29] CEPAL. Available at: https://www.cepal.org/en/projects/financial-inclusion-smes/background#A4

Gaps in innovation for agricultural resilience in LAC

35. The IDB report 'Unleashing Innovation: Assessment of the Role of Agricultural R&D in Latin America and the Caribbean' (2023)[30] states that, despite the proven high returns of agricultural R&D&I (research and development and innovation), countries in the region continue to lag behind in allocating adequate resources to this strategic sector. The region has low agricultural innovation capacity, with an average score of 0.35 on the Innovation Capacity Index (ICI). This index measures both the supply (scientific and technological infrastructure) and the demand (adoption of knowledge in the sector). Regional inequality is high: while countries like Chile exceed the average due to their institutional quality and human capital, others like Argentina and Brazil, despite their investment, show gaps in innovation policy.
36. The report concludes that the historical underinvestment in agricultural R&D&I and innovation, especially in smaller countries or those with low institutional capacity, limits the response to increasing climate risks. Additionally, the role of the private sector remains nascent in most countries; public agencies and international cooperation continue to be the main sources of innovation. Across the region, the public sector is the main employer of agricultural researchers, with 50% of all research carried out by government institutions, followed by higher education (38%) and non-profit organizations (12%). Moreover, significant gender disparities persist in research capacity across all countries; in 2020, women accounted for only about 26% of agricultural researchers.
37. The report's recommendations include the integration of research institutions into national science, technology, and innovation systems aligned with agri-food value chains; the strengthening of human and institutional capacities; the promotion of regional partnerships; and the establishment of more flexible and sustainable financing systems.
38. In its first phase, the AFCIA program, implemented by UNEP, financed four incubators in the Bahamas, Ecuador, Suriname, and Guatemala, and two technological accelerators in Honduras and Saint Kitts and Nevis. While three of these projects included components related to agriculture and food security, the greatest emphasis was placed on other key areas for climate adaptation: five projects addressed disaster risk reduction, four focused on water management, and three worked with climate data.[31]
39. Some initiatives related to innovation and adaptation for the agricultural sector being promoted in the region include those of FONTAGRO[32], which annually launches open and competitive calls to cofinance innovation networks with a multi-country, multi-actor, and multidisciplinary approach in LAC. These initiatives address the major challenges of agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, generating solutions with regional impact and global projection. Another interesting initiative is the SCALA project, 'Climate Ambition to Improve Land Use and Agriculture,' by UNDP, which responds to the urgent need to increase measures to address the impacts of climate change in the agriculture and land use sectors.
40. These programmes highlight the urgent need to increase investment in agricultural innovation to enhance resilience and food security in LAC, as current funding levels remain insufficient to address growing climate risks.
41. The following table presents the main characteristics of relevant innovation-related initiatives in the region.

Table 1. Programs and financing lines for climate innovation in LAC

Program / Funding Line (LAC)	Financing type	Typical beneficiaries	Characteristics and challenges
FONTAGRO – Innovations for Agricultural Adaptation	Co-financing of R&D&I and pilots	Research institutes, universities, public agencies, regional partnerships	Strong focus on agricultural adaptation in LAC. Requires consortia and solid scientific foundations.
IDB Lab – Innovation for Climate Resilience	Seed capital, grants, and blended financing	Startups, SMEs, cooperatives, and tech ventures	Promotes climate solutions with market potential. Focused on business models.

[30] BID, 2023. Desatando la innovación: Evaluación del papel de la I+D agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe / Alejandro Nin-Pratt, Gert-Jan Stads, Luis de los Santos, Gonzalo Muñoz.
[31] Available at: https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMjgxNWZkNjEtN2MwZS00YzgzLTg0YTMtMTNjZWJjNmQzN2JlIiwidCI6IjBmOWUzNWRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MC1iZGNjLTVlYTQxNmU2ZGM3MCIsImMiOjh9
[32] For more information see: https://fontagro.org/es/historias-de-impacto/adaptacion-agricultura-cambio-climatico-lac

AgroHub Zamorano (IDB Lab + Zamorano University)	Technical cooperation + support for agrifood ventures/innovation (incubation/acceleration initiatives)	Small farmers, agrifood startups, and rural entrepreneurs in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador	Promotes sustainable agrifood innovation, focusing on climate resilience, sustainability, and inclusion; includes incubation/acceleration, technology transfer, support for rural ventures, and strengthening the AgriFoodTech ecosystem in Central America.
IICA – Climate-Smart Agricultural Innovation Programs/Accelerators	Grants, incubation, and technical assistance	Cooperatives, organized producers, startups, and innovation networks	Focus on adaptation in the agricultural sector. Coverage varies by country and call for proposals.
Climate-LAC Innovation Hub (Regional Partnerships)	Small grants and technical assistance	CSOs, entrepreneurs, innovation labs	Supports territorial climate solutions. Small amounts and limited scale.
Seeds of Innovation (various LAC countries)	Small grants for early-stage ideas	Local organizations, community groups, young innovators	Focus on community-based innovation for resilience. Challenge: low funding and limited continuity for scaling.

42. As can be concluded, innovation financing lines and specific programs in LAC tend to focus on competitive funds with limited resources and reduced territorial reach. Consequently, access to financing for innovation in climate change adaptation in the region remains very limited.

Lessons learned from innovation projects

43. From the study on the successful cases competition 'Impact Innovations: Lessons on Climate Change Adaptation in Family Farming in LAC,' by FONTAGRO-IDB-IICAD,[33] seven operational lessons for working with communities on climate risk adaptation can be derived:

1. **Active participation of family farmers:** Continuous involvement of farmers in problem identification, solution design, and field validation is essential to ensure the relevance and sustainability of innovations. Early participation strengthens the sense of ownership and facilitates territorial scaling.
2. **Interinstitutional organization and coordination:** Collaboration among producer organizations, public institutions, the private sector, and research centers is essential for implementing complex innovations. Integrated approaches—combining local capacities with specialized technical assistance—maximize impact and replicability.
3. **Capacity building and local leadership:** Continuous, hands-on training is critical for technological adoption. Developing local leaders helps consolidate community self-learning processes and ensures the sustainability of interventions by replicating experiences in new communities.
4. **Appropriate technologies and knowledge:** Combining traditional knowledge with scientific research and international experiences has proven especially effective. Adapting global technologies and practices to local conditions generates high-impact, low-cost solutions with strong potential for scaling.
5. **Technical assistance and credit:** Projects that combine specialized technical support with appropriate credit achieve higher adoption rates and better productive outcomes. This integration reduces risks, facilitates investment in resilient crops and pastures, and demonstrates the economic viability of climate innovations.
6. **Prominent role of women:** Incorporating a gender perspective enhances the effectiveness and reach of initiatives. In many cases, women act as key agents in the adoption and dissemination of technologies, contributing to greater social, economic, and environmental benefits.
7. **Comprehensive approaches and value chains:** Interventions that address adaptation in a holistic manner—from production to marketing—achieve higher returns and sustainability. Diversifying activities and adding value at different links of the chain strengthen the economic resilience of family farming against climate change.

[33] Innovaciones de impacto. Innovaciones de impacto: lecciones sobre adaptación al cambio climático de la agricultura familiar en América Latina y el Caribe / FONTAGRO. 2015. https://publications.iadb.org/es/publications/spanish/viewer/Innovaciones-de-impacto-Lecciones-sobre-adaptaci%C3%B3n-al-cambio-clim%C3%A1tico-de-la-agricultura-familiar-en-Am%C3%A9rica-Latina-y-el-Caribe.pdf

Barriers to Agricultural Sector Adaptation in LAC

44. According to the IPCC (2022)[34], the main barriers faced by agricultural producers in LAC for climate change adaptation are related to the lack of financing and gaps in access to site-specific adaptation knowledge and training. Climate change requires advancing initiatives to improve education, technology, and innovation in agricultural systems in the region.
45. In this regard, CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy (2025)[35] identifies a set of structural barriers that limit both climate adaptation and innovation in the agricultural sector of LAC:

- Insufficient financing to enable risk-taking and foster R&D&I in the agricultural sector: Investment in infrastructure, science, and technology remains insufficient in the region. For example, LAC accounts for only 2% of global R&D investment, well below North America and Europe (51%) or Asia (39%). In most countries, except Brazil, investment in science and technology does not exceed 1% of GDP. In addition, the limited availability of innovative and flexible financial instruments restricts access for small producers and vulnerable value chains to climate and technological financing mechanisms. The LAC region faces a structural barrier to financing agricultural innovation, characterized by low, volatile, and unsustainable levels of investment in R&D&I. At the same time, most countries invest less than USD 20 million annually, and relative investment levels are also very low: except for Panama (1.12% of Agricultural GDP, AgGDP) and Costa Rica (0.87%), no country reaches the recommended minimum threshold of investing at least 1% of AgGDP in R&D&I. Five countries allocate even less than 0.25%.[36] The result is a fragile regional innovation system, with capacities that cannot be consolidated or respond effectively to the challenges of agricultural productivity and resilient development.
- Limited institutional coordination for the generation of innovations: Many national and regional entities have limited capacity to articulate and establish collaborations that enable progress in the design, financing, and scaling of climate innovation projects, particularly those targeting small producers. There is a need to strengthen institutions and their capacity for multisectoral coordination, especially in relation to climate change, agricultural development, and digital and physical infrastructure.
- Limited spaces for the integration of vulnerable producers in the development and implementation of innovation: Without parallel strengthening of technical assistance and locally adapted digital platforms, the mere availability of technologies does not guarantee their adoption among small and medium producers. A persistent barrier to the adaptation of vulnerable producers in LAC is the limited alignment between those who develop knowledge and innovation and the producers who face the impacts of climate change. Although partnerships and previous experiences exist, gaps in connectivity and information flow persist, making it difficult for innovative solutions to respond in an agile, timely, and appropriate manner to territorial needs. Without complementary support, many producers will not be able to fully benefit from the new technologies.
- The evidence base on the innovation process and agricultural innovations is very limited: The LAC region suffers from a structural scarcity of evidence on innovation processes and agricultural innovations, which limits the capacity to design effective policies, investments, and programs. Despite recent advances in public spending on agricultural R&D in some countries, measurable research outcomes in terms of implemented technologies, productivity changes, adoption of innovations, or sustainability impacts remain few and scattered.[37]
- Successful innovations with limited scaling and replication: Available funding is usually directed toward identifying, incubating, and/or accelerating innovations, but it is still nearly nonexistent for recognizing successful innovation cases and creating mechanisms for replication and scaling.

[34] 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.
[35] CAF, 2025. Prosperidad Agropecuaria. La nueva estrategia de CAF para la producción agropecuaria sostenible, resiliente regenerativa, que contribuya a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, en América Latina y el Caribe, una región de soluciones para los desafíos globales. Available at: https://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/2416
[36] Nin Pratt, A., Stads, G., Santos, L. d. l., & Muñoz, G. (2023). Desatando la innovación: evaluación del papel de la I&D agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe. Available at: Inter-American Development Bank, https://doi.org/10.18235/0005006
[37] Ibidem

46. In addition, the Strategy identifies nine main challenges for the agricultural sector in the region: the need for policies that comprehensively address structural inequality and the vulnerability of territories and communities; the need for a transition towards low-emission, climate-resilient production processes; insufficient investment levels in infrastructure and technological innovation; the need to strengthen capacity in sectoral institutions, among others.

Figure 1. Main challenges of the agricultural sector according to CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy (2025)

47. These structural barriers not only restrict the sector's adaptation capacity but also hinder progress towards a sustainable transformation that ensures food security, social inclusion, and environmental resilience.
48. It is worth highlighting that, in its strategy, CAF incorporates sustainable finance diversification and innovation as a key pillar, opening the possibility to explore non-traditional financial protection solutions, a pending need in several LAC countries to reduce the exposure of small and medium sized producers to losses from climate events.

Institutional Responses and Regional Commitments

49. The CAF 2023 Economy and Development Report (RED), 'Global Challenges, Regional Solutions: Latin America and the Caribbean Facing the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis,' emphasizes three key messages for all countries: the importance of adaptation, the need to contribute to global mitigation, and the urgency of preserving natural capital as a key factor in the development process. It also highlights that policies to address these challenges may vary according to the diversity of resources and risks in each country, with potential tensions between opposing objectives and synergies that must be leveraged.
50. The financing needs to achieve development, climate, and biodiversity preservation goals are 0.28% of the region's annual GDP by 2030[38]. Therefore, CAF has committed to increasing green financing to a minimum of 40% of its financial approvals by 2026 and to being one of the most active institutions in the region in mobilizing resources from major green funds and international partners.
51. Within the framework of the Adaptation Fund, CAF has implemented projects in Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay. These interventions have successfully involved local governments from the earliest stages of the process, allowing them to define, prioritize, design, and directly implement adaptation actions. With other climate funds such as the GCF, CAF is currently implementing climate change adaptation projects in the agricultural sector, such as the project: 'Climate-Smart Initiatives for Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability in Agricultural Production Systems – CSICAP' in Colombia, or the program 'Climate Change: The New Evolutionary Challenge for the Galápagos Archipelago' in Ecuador.

[38] De Miguel, Carlos J.; Lorenzo, Santiago; Alatorre, José Eduardo; Gómez, José Javier; Ferrer, Jimy; Rezza, Lucía; Fernández Sepúlveda, Ignacio. Necesidades de financiamiento y objetivos climáticos en América Latina y el Caribe. CEPAL 2024.

52. These initiatives, along with others approved or currently underway with the support of international funds such as the GEF, have significantly contributed to strengthening institutional capacities, enabling sustained management of long-term adaptation projects, and consolidating their experience in the design and implementation of measures aimed at the agricultural sector.
53. Nature-based economies, including both food and non-food agricultural products, are emerging as a key opportunity for the sustainable development of the region and the world. It is estimated that this market will reach USD 7.7 billion globally by 2030 (Lesenfants et al., 2024).
54. The sustainable transformation of the agricultural sector in the region requires innovative policies focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity preservation, and strengthening productivity with social equity and the inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.
55. The report 'Situation and Prospects of the Agricultural Sector in LAC 2023-2024' (ECLAC, FAO, IICA, 2023) underscores the importance of regional cooperation to face these challenges and transform agri-food systems into more resilient and sustainable models. This requires policies that improve food security, promote innovation, and strengthen resilience to current and future challenges.
56. FONTAGRO's 2025–2030 Medium-Term Plan emphasizes that, in a scenario of increasing climate risks, science, technology, and innovation systems constitute the first line of defense for the agricultural sector, as they provide solutions that reduce losses, increase productivity, and strengthen resilience. Innovations such as advanced biotechnology, digital agriculture, remote sensing, predictive models, gene editing, and artificial intelligence are already transforming the efficient use of water, soils, and nutrients. However, FAO warns that their adoption shows strong asymmetries across countries and territories, revealing significant gaps in infrastructure, human capacities, and governance mechanisms that limit the scale and sustainability of these solutions. In response, the Plan organizes FONTAGRO's institutional action into six Flagship Programs aimed at transforming crops and livestock systems, modernizing extension and technology transfer, advancing digitalization and robotics applied to agriculture, developing the future food basket, and formulating evidence-based policies. These programs provide a roadmap for mobilizing innovation, scaling proven solutions, and generating regional public goods that strengthen food security and climate resilience.
57. In this context, FONTAGRO commits to prioritizing interventions with direct on-the-ground impact and high replication potential—including climate-stress-tolerant varieties, sustainable soil and water management practices, digital agriculture, and early warning systems—which are fundamental for the transition toward climate-smart and inclusive agriculture.

B. Project / Programme Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project/programme.

58. The program 'Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean' has the following general objective:

    - To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers[39], with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

59. The program also aims to contribute to the following specific objectives:

    - Provide financial support to strengthen partnerships between research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and producer organizations to co-design, test, and accelerate innovative adaptation solutions in vulnerable rural areas of LAC (Component 1).

[39] According to FAO, smallholders (generally corresponding to family farming) typically operate farms or agricultural holdings of less than two hectares; however, in some countries and sectors they may exceed 10 hectares. Medium-sized farms range from 2 to 50 hectares, while large farms exceed 50 hectares. Given that the project covers multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, the definitions of small and medium-sized farms will be adjusted according to national contexts.

- Strengthen the technical capacities of innovation-developing institutions and community change agents to co-design, implement, validate, and scale adaptation solutions (Component 2).
- Promote the systematization and dissemination of knowledge on innovation in climate change adaptation, generating opportunities for scaling and replicating innovative solutions (Component 3).

60. The program is built by leveraging FONTAGRO's solid experience, with more than 25 years of work in incubating and accelerating agricultural innovation initiatives in LAC. FONTAGRO has in-depth knowledge of the sector's actors in the region and has established mechanisms, tools, and networks to connect institutions and producer organizations that will benefit from this program.

C. Project / Programme Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, outcomes, outputs, and countries in which activities would be executed, and the corresponding budgets.

For the case of a programme, individual components are likely to refer to specific sub-sets of stakeholders, regions and/or sectors that can be addressed through a set of well-defined interventions / projects.

Table 2. Financing by component

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC	Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	1.1 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes	CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.	5,016,000
Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects	Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches	CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.	709,780
Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation	Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.	819,680
4. Project/Programme Execution cost				727,270
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				7,272,730
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				727,270

Amount of Financing Requested	**8,000,000**

D. Projected Calendar:

Indicate the dates of the following milestones for the proposed project/programme. The duration of the programme should be up to five years.

Table 3. Program calendar

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	2029
Project/Programme Closing	2031
Terminal Evaluation	2032

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

E. Project/programme components

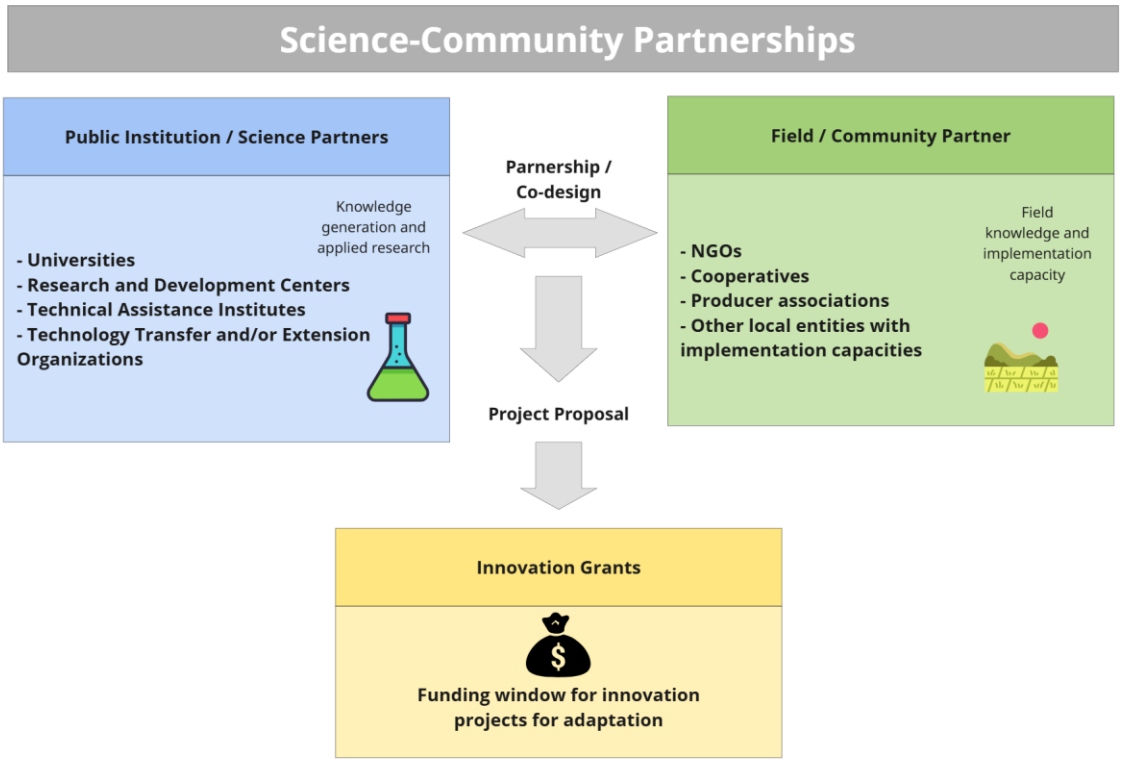
Describe the project / programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities, how these activities would contribute to climate resilience. Describe also how they would build added value through the regional or multi-regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually. Furthermore, show how the combination of individual projects would contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

61. The AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO program is structured into three interconnected components focusing on: 1) financing partnerships for the implementation of innovative adaptation measures during incubation and acceleration stages (Component 1); 2) providing the technical strengthening necessary for the development and implementation of adaptation solutions (Component 2); and 3) systematizing experiences and lessons learned, and disseminating knowledge on innovation in agricultural adaptation to promote scaling and replication (Component 3).
62. **Science–Community Partnerships:** The program will accelerate projects co-designed between scientific actors and the community in areas of high climate vulnerability. These partnerships will integrate scientific knowledge and local experience to generate innovative, scalable, and replicable prototypes and practices, with a direct impact on the adaptation of the agricultural sector.

    i. Science: public institutions, such as universities, research and development centers, and technical assistance, transfer, and/or extension institutes.

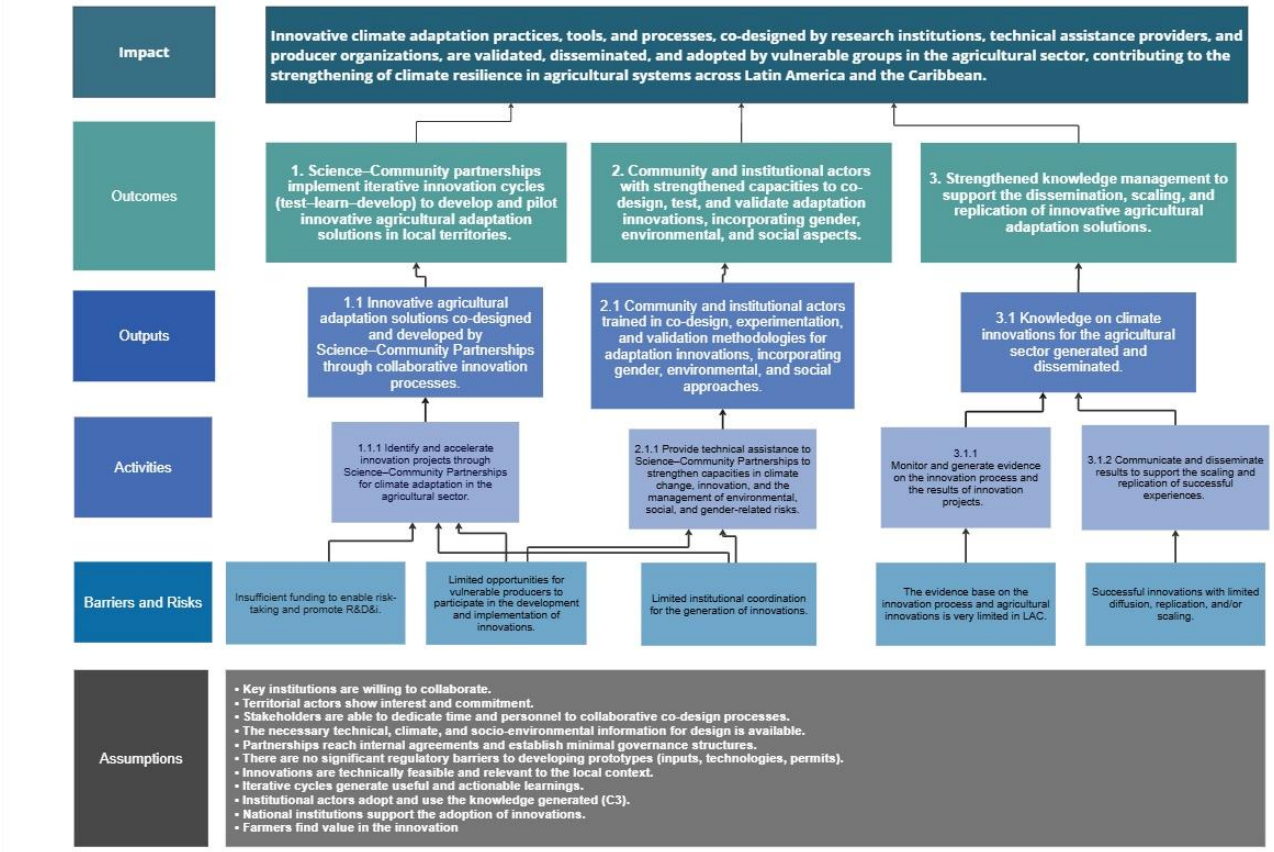
    ii. Community: an on-the-ground partner, which can be an NGO, a cooperative, an association or group of small- and medium-scale producers, or another local entity with the capacity to implement innovation.

Figure 2: Science–Community partnerships for climate-resilient innovation in the agricultural sector



63. **Program Theory of Change:** The program aims to overcome the main barriers to climate adaptation and risk management in Latin America and the Caribbean, based on the premise that **if** the capacities of small- and medium-scale producers are strengthened, specific financial support is provided to innovative climate adaptation initiatives, and partnerships are fostered between research institutions, technical assistance or extension services, and producer groups implementing pilot projects, **then** agricultural innovations in LAC will be accelerated and validated on the ground for scaling and replication. This will enhance climate resilience and contribute to increasing the adaptive capacity of agricultural producers. This will be possible **because** the available financing will reduce the risk of advancing and implementing innovations, the capacities of agricultural sector actors in adaptation and climate resilience will be strengthened, more evidence on suitable adaptation innovations will be captured, and the results of innovations will be disseminated to promote the scaling and replication of appropriate and innovative practices. See Figure 3.

Figure 3: Program Theory of Change



Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC

Outcome 1. Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (*test–learn–develop*) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in local territories.

64. This Outcome aims for Science–Community Partnerships to move from having co-designed and prototyped innovative solutions (Output) to implementing iterative innovation cycles of testing, learning, and development in the territories, applying and piloting these solutions under real conditions. Through this process, the partnerships are expected to experiment, adjust, and improve the innovations, generating practical learning that enables progress from design to the pilot operation of agricultural adaptation technologies, processes, and/or practices. Achieving this outcome assumes that the actors involved can dedicate time and personnel to the collaborative co-design processes, and that the necessary technical, climate, and socio-environmental information to guide the development of solutions is available. It is also assumed that Science–Community Partnerships reach internal agreements and establish a minimum level of governance to facilitate coordination, and that no significant regulatory barriers exist that would limit the development of prototypes, including inputs, technologies, or permits. Additionally, it is assumed that the proposed innovations are technically feasible and relevant to the local context, and that implementing iterative innovation cycles generates useful and actionable learning that feeds back into the process of improving the solutions.
65. This outcome aligns with **Adaptation Fund Outcome 8:** Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices tools and technologies.

Output 1.1 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes.

66. It is expected to secure funding for at least 20 Science–Community Partnerships and to develop 20 projects with innovative adaptation solutions co-designed collaboratively by institutions and on-the-ground community actors.

Activity 1.1.1 Identify and accelerate innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.

67. This activity involves identifying and accelerating at least 20 climate adaptation projects developed by Science-Community Partnerships. To achieve this, a regional public call will be conducted, followed by technical and strategic evaluations of the proposals, and the selection of projects to receive small grants of up to USD 250,000. Depending on the maturity of each proposal and the extent to which it meets the requirements and criteria established for the call (Section G), as assessed by the Evaluation Panel, some projects may enter incubation processes, while the remaining projects will proceed directly to the acceleration process.
68. The activity will be supported by a broad dissemination campaign to promote access and equity among diverse groups, and will include capacity-building sessions (Component 2) with launch webinars, consultations, and awareness-raising to ensure the informed participation of all stakeholders (both researchers and producers) and to strengthen the quality of submitted proposals, including topics such as environmental, social, and gender safeguards.
69. Each proposal submitted to the accelerator must describe: the climate problem, the identification of one or more innovative solutions to address the described climate threats, impacts, and risks; an environmental, social, and gender analysis and plan; a sustainability plan; and a cost-efficiency analysis, as well as the proposed activities for outreach, technical assistance, or scaling of the innovative solution with the group of producers who are co-designing partners of the proposal. It is explicitly sought that each proposal integrates three capacities: 1) research; 2) extension–transfer or technical assistance for the on-the-ground implementation of the innovation, and 3) communities – implementation in the field with a local partner, which may be an NGO, cooperative, association, or group of small- and medium-sized producers, or another local entity with the capacity to implement the innovation/prototype in the field.
70. Selected projects will receive differentiated support according to their technological readiness levels (TRL): incubation for early-stage initiatives (TRL 4) and acceleration for initiatives in advanced phases (TRL 5–8). That is, in the acceleration phase, projects at TRL 5 to TRL 8 maturity levels will be supported (see Table 4). The objective is to strengthen their design, advance their technological maturity, reinforce the solution, and ensure conditions for effective and scalable implementation. The degree of advancement of the innovation proposed by each project or prototype will be a key criterion for its evaluation and potential approval in the accelerator.
71. Proposals presenting a minimum prototype maturity level of TRL 4 will be supported; these will enter the incubation process and subsequently progress toward acceleration. This combination of stages will allow the development of a functional prototype to be completed and its practical validation through small-scale pilot testing of technologies or practices aimed at climate change adaptation, thereby reaching a maturity level equivalent to TRL 5.

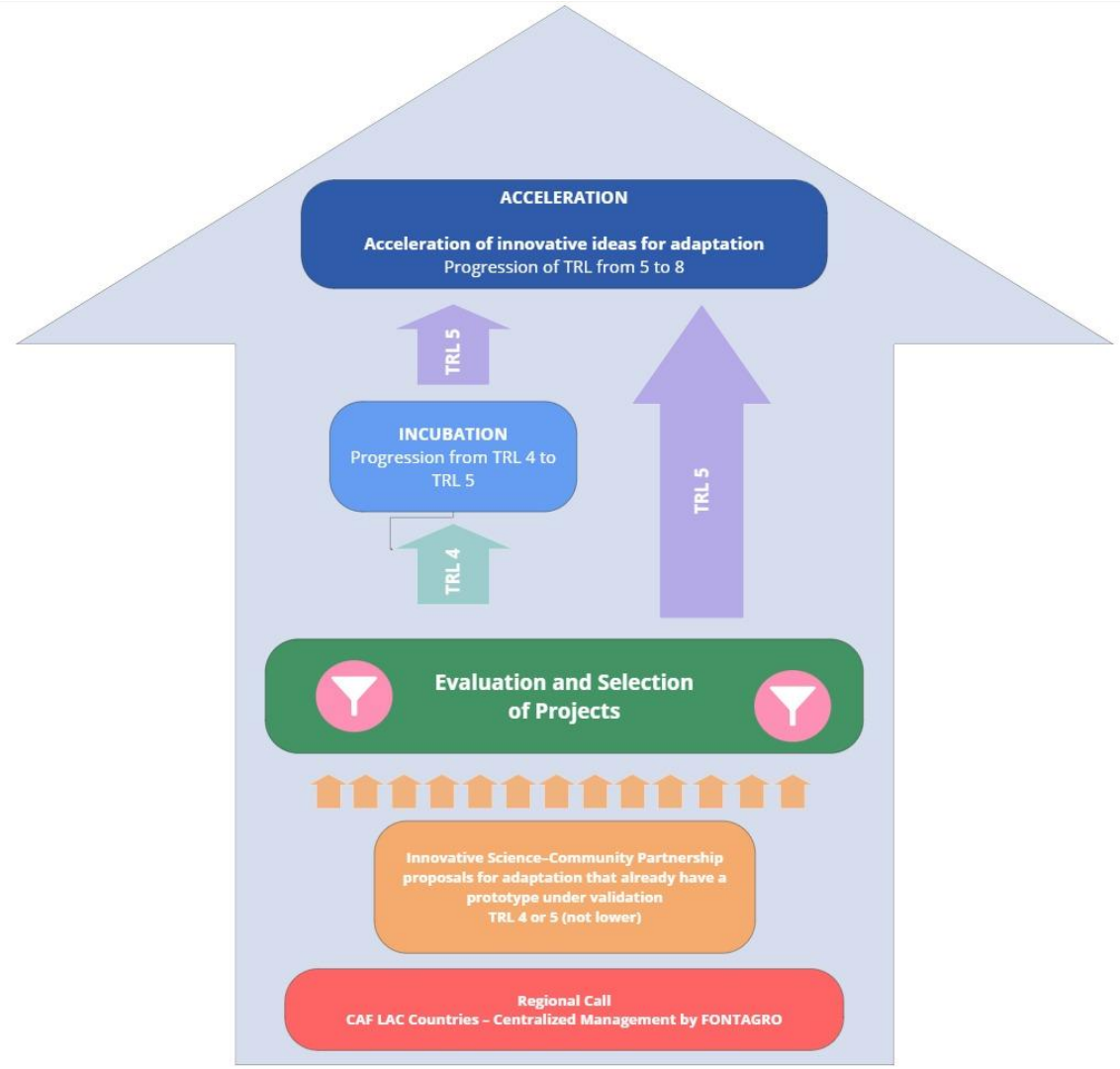
Table 4. Characteristics of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

Technology Readiness Level (TRL)	Characteristics
TRL 1 – Basic principles observed	- The scientific basis of the technology is identified. - No prototype exists; only observation, theory, or hypothesis.
TRL 2 – Technology concept formulated	- A concept of application based on the observed principles is defined. - No testing has been conducted yet; only conceptual models or preliminary sketches.
TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept	- Initial experiments are conducted to validate feasibility. - A very basic laboratory prototype (“bench prototype”) may exist.
TRL 4 – Laboratory Validation	- A functional prototype is built and validated under controlled conditions. - The performance of key components is verified.

TRL 5 – Validation in Relevant Environment	- The prototype is tested under conditions similar to real-world settings (“relevant environment”). - Multiple components are integrated, and their interaction is tested.
TRL 6 – Demonstration in Relevant Environment	- An almost fully functional prototype is tested in an environment close to real conditions - Robust evidence of technical performance is required.
TRL 7 – Demonstration in Operational Environment	- A pilot demonstration is conducted under real operational conditions. - The technology operates in the real world with actual users.
TRL 8 – Complete and Certified System	- The technology is complete, tested, and certified for operation. - Regulatory requirements, certifications, or standards have been met.
TRL 9 – Technology Proven in the Market	- The technology is already commercially deployed - Sales, real metrics, and customer feedback exist.

72. Semiannual regional calls for proposals are envisaged to fund at least the planned target number of projects; should remaining budget be available, additional calls may be launched in line with the Program’s implementation framework. The figure below illustrates the trajectory of innovative ideas for adaptation.

Figure 4. Trajectory of Innovative Ideas under Component 1, AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO



73. The incubation period plus the acceleration period, or just the acceleration (depending on the maturity level of the initiative), will have a maximum duration of 24 months in total.
74. Applying best innovation practices, the Program will work from the outset on incubation and acceleration based on prototypes, rather than on ideas or business plans.
75. This outcome aims to accelerate innovative practices and technologies resulting from incubation or from other initiatives that already have evidence of feasibility from their pilot phase and meet the program's requirements.
76. Projects will be selected based on criteria such as their reach to producers with the greatest climate vulnerability, their potential for scalability and replicability, among other criteria detailed later in this document.
77. Gender and inclusion: The activity will apply inclusive criteria to promote women's technical and community leadership within Science–Community partnerships, in line with the measures set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring targeted support throughout the application, incubation, and acceleration stages.

Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects

Outcome 2. Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social aspects.

78. Through this outcome, it is expected to achieve enabling conditions in terms of the capacities of the actors involved in the innovation process. This outcome seeks to generate improvements in the practical capacities of institutional and community actors on issues related to anticipated and current climate impacts, innovative solutions for agricultural adaptation, cross-cutting issues such as gender, environmental and social considerations, cost-effectiveness, learning cycles, testing and validation, as well as the identification of indicators for monitoring and generating relevant evidence on innovations for climate adaptation. It is anticipated that through multi-actor training and exchange spaces, actors will be able to increase their knowledge and improve their practices, thereby strengthening their capacities. It is considered necessary that stakeholders participate in the capacity-building sessions, increase their knowledge, and apply this knowledge to improve their innovation practices. This outcome aligns with **Outcome 3 of the Adaptation Fund***: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level.*

Output 2.1: Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social approaches.

79. At least 20 Science-Community Partnerships will be strengthened, ensuring the participation of beneficiary producers in the co-design of the project.

Activity 2.1.1 Provide technical assistance to Science–Community Partnerships to strengthen capacities in climate change, innovation, and the management of environmental, social, and gender-related risks.

80. Technical support and capacity building for science-community partnerships, both during the call phase and throughout the project implementation, including:
81. Call phase:
    - **Call dissemination and communication strategy:** A strategy will be developed to disseminate the call in order to reach public institutions that work directly with producer groups, such as agricultural extension and transfer agencies. Efforts will be made to actively involve them so they participate specifically as promoters of the call through their networks and work with vulnerable producer groups, encouraging their participation and connection with the project, including CAF's, FONTAGRO's and IICA's networks, as well as the communication channels and outreach networks of national governments and agricultural national innovation networks. This strategy will include gender

considerations and inclusion aspects to ensure that vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities, also have access to the call information. Likewise, the key information for the call for proposals (guidelines, criteria, timeline, and application/inquiry channels) will be available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, and, where appropriate depending on the intervention territory, interpretation support will be provided if needed to ensure effective access for local populations.

- **Webinars:** Initial training on innovation criteria, climate change adaptation and climate risk, technical aspects of the call and project preparation, identification of appropriate indicators to monitor the innovation process, as well as to capture key results of innovations during the design stage; specific training on the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social safeguards; and training on gender for projects focusing on the participation of producers from vulnerable rural communities, particularly women and indigenous populations. The possibility of providing translation and/or interpretation services into different languages, such as English, Portuguese, Quechua, Guaraní, or sign languages, is included.

82. Project implementation phase:
    - **Open and hybrid innovation sessions:** During project implementation, FONTAGRO will organize sessions in a hybrid format to empower the actors participating in the partnerships and connect them with other external actors who are part of the innovation ecosystem. These actors may include government entities, researchers from other institutions and countries specializing in the topic, FONTAGRO specialists, and other community groups such as producer groups, NGOs, and associations working on similar issues, to receive feedback and foster discussion on the elements necessary to promote innovations. One session per project will be held at the end of the first year of project implementation.
83. Additionally: During the call and throughout project implementation, the Program Management Unit (PMU) will establish a *helpdesk* that will be available to serve as a center for receiving inquiries and providing support to projects according to their needs.
84. **Gender and inclusion:** The activity will apply inclusive criteria to promote women's technical and community leadership within Science–Community partnerships, in line with the measures set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring targeted support throughout the application, incubation, and acceleration stages.

Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation

Outcome 3: Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions.

85. This outcome aims to strengthen knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions, progressing from the generation, systematization, and analysis of evidence on innovation processes and results, toward their strategic communication and use through actions such as sharing lessons learned, preparing *policy briefs*, facilitating dialogue tables with decision-makers, and connecting successful cases with potential funders or other scaling opportunities. It is expected that knowledge management and the dissemination of activities and results will expand the potential for replication and scaling of innovative technologies and practices in other countries and regions, thereby amplifying their effects. For this chain to materialize, it is assumed that institutional actors are willing to incorporate the evidence produced, and that the innovative solutions demonstrate sufficiently strong performance to attract the interest of public policy makers, potential investors, and funding programs for their scaling and replication.
86. This outcome aligns with **Outcome 8 of the Adaptation Fund:** Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices tools and technologies

Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated.

87. This output will deliver knowledge products, identify successful cases, improve the monitoring and evaluation of agricultural innovation processes and results, and provide various formats for knowledge dissemination, such as virtual exchange spaces, in-situ workshops, and special formats for different

audiences. The management and dissemination of knowledge is expected to involve a range of actors: decision-makers from local and national governments, research and development institutions, incubators and innovation agencies, local producer organizations, NGOs, producer cooperatives, technical experts, designated authorities (NDAs), and other institutions that develop adaptation projects—both multilateral and regional or national (NIEs)—and may be interested in scaling innovative solutions.

88. Additionally, it is expected that the monitoring and evaluation of the projects will generate adaptive management and contribute to systematizing key lessons from both the Program's innovation processes and the adaptation solutions. M&E will be a cross-cutting element throughout all stages of the innovative idea development process.
89. The component is structured as a single output with two complementary activities, ranging from support for monitoring the Adaptation Fund requirements to the systematization of lessons learned and their strategic communication and dissemination.

Activity 3.1.1 Monitor and generate evidence on the innovation process and the results of innovation projects.

90. This activity aims to generate information through the monitoring of projects as required by the Adaptation Fund and to identify and document valuable experiences for their lessons. The activities will include the **systematization of experiences and lessons learned** from the climate change innovation projects supported by the program.
91. Support to projects for proper indicator tracking includes: i) conducting baseline data collection using the call's form and ensuring its compilation; ii) recording evidence on the effectiveness of innovative adaptation actions (according to program criteria) as well as on the innovation process and stakeholder consultations; and iii) supervising the use of funds and the preparation of progress reports, including key indicators.
92. Additionally, a demand study of the productive sector will be carried out, including a systematic survey of the needs of producers in the region regarding climate change adaptation. This study will generate solid evidence on the sector's specific gaps and priorities, providing a strategic input to guide decisions on scaling and replicating innovative solutions.
93. Additionally, successful cases will be identified through a competition among the funded projects that demonstrate the greatest scaling potential. This call will allow the selection, based on evidence, of innovations that can advance to higher levels of technological maturity (TRL9). Winning projects will receive recognition and additional support to enhance their visibility and facilitate their expansion.
94. Through the activities of 3.1.2, these lessons will be disseminated, and strategies will be developed to promote projects for scaling and replication.
95. **Gender and inclusion**: The activity will apply inclusive criteria to promote women's technical and community leadership within Science–Community partnerships, in line with the measures set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring targeted support throughout the application, incubation, and acceleration stages.

Activity 3.1.2 Communicate and disseminate results to support the scaling and replication of successful experiences

96. This activity aims to showcase the achievements, lessons learned, and evidence generated through Components 1 and 2 using communication strategies targeted at diverse audiences. Accessible materials will be developed—including translations into indigenous languages where appropriate—to promote the adoption of innovative practices by producers, institutions, and other sector actors. Additionally, calls for proposals will be disseminated, and the most relevant success stories at the regional level will be highlighted, strengthening public recognition of climate innovation as a tool for sustainable development. To support this, a dedicated section will be established on the FONTAGRO website, where technical documents, studies, webinars, events, and other awareness-raising and training resources generated under the Program will be made available.
97. This activity focuses on the production, organization, and dissemination of knowledge generated from the innovative projects funded by the program. The activities will include:
98. Dissemination of results:

- **Virtual or hybrid workshops,** knowledge-sharing spaces among stakeholders and other interested parties who are part of the innovation ecosystem.
- Development of **technical publications**, both digital and physical when appropriate; documents on success stories (audiovisual, for example) in the form of case studies or reports; and compilations of good practices that help expand the evidence base on effective climate innovation.
- **Customization of the FONTAGRO platform and Dashboard** [40] to the Program and the requirements of the Adaptation Fund, including innovation, gender, and environmental and social indicators.
- Creation of **an online catalog of innovative adaptation solutions.**

99. NDAs and other organizations involved in the formulation of climate projects, such as multilateral, regional, or national agencies (NIEs), will also be invited to participate in these meetings to disseminate the results of the process, strengthen their capacities in innovation processes, and explore interest in replicating and/or scaling up the results in new projects.

100. Promotion of Scaling and Replication of Successful Cases:

- Based on the successful cases, a publication will be produced to disseminate them, and *policy briefs* will be developed aimed at decision-makers.
- Within the framework of the FONTAGRO Annual Meeting, dialogue tables will be organized with decision-makers from LAC to present the conclusions and policy recommendations based on the AFCIA-CAF/FONTAGRO process.
- Identification of funding sources, potential investors, and calls for proposals that could scale or replicate successful experiences. Creation of a database to share and disseminate with the partnerships.
- **Science-Community Partnership Marketplace:** For successful cases, capacity-building efforts will focus on presenting their ideas to potential funders or applying to identified calls that could scale or replicate the innovative projects. A *marketplace* event will be organized, inviting potential funders and partnerships virtually to connect for the development of future phases. The FONTAGRO platform allows all projects to compile their results and generates a format with key points for pitching their projects, including a request for a sustainability and scaling plan. This will serve as a starting point to work with the partnerships on their proposals and capacity strengthening.

101. These inputs will serve as tools for the formulation of future policies, the expansion of successful solutions, and the continuous training of key stakeholders.

102. **Gender and inclusion:** Communication actions will highlight innovations led or co-developed by women and other prioritized groups and will promote learning on inclusion and the mainstreaming of a gender approach in climate adaptation actions, in line with the Gender Action Plan (GAP), to foster replicability and recognition of inclusive practices across the region.

F. Contribution to the expected results under the innovation pillar

Describe how the project /programme would contribute meaningfully to the Expected Results under the Innovation Pillar (i.e. (i) New innovations and risk-taking[41] encouraged and accelerated; (ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up; (iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation and; (iv) Evidence base generated and shared)

103. The Program contributes to the 4 expected outcomes within the framework of the innovation pillar:

104. **(i) New innovations and risk-taking encouraged and accelerated: Th**e Program promotes and accelerates the development of climate innovations by funding, coordinating, and supporting collaborative

[40] Example of available information online from a project on the FONTAGRO Platform. Trigo resiliente al cambio climático.

[41] For some clarifications on the concept of risk, please see innovation project design elements and further clarification on the concept of risk.

processes among research institutions, technical assistance providers, and community-based producer organizations, enabling solutions at early stages of technological maturity (TRL 4) to advance toward testing and development phases **through** the iterative test–learn–develop cycle. During the call phase, dissemination and outreach activities will be conducted, and support spaces such as webinars and technical assistance will be offered to foster the dynamic and creative co-creation of proposals. During implementation, the accelerator under Component 1 explicitly promotes experimentation and controlled risk-taking, creating a safe environment for communities and institutions to test new practices, technologies, and adaptation tools without fear of failure, and generating the necessary conditions to advance toward more robust solutions with greater potential impact. This is included as part of the support provided under Component 2 with technical assistance during the design phase, which explicitly contributes to developing monitoring processes, indicators, and cycles for systematizing and discussing lessons learned as part of the proposals submitted by the Partnerships. Additionally, for selected Partnerships, specific indicators will be established to capture not only innovation achievements but also the experimentation and learning process cycle. Component 2 also includes open and hybrid innovation sessions for all Partnerships to foster reflection that enables learning and internal improvement, while incorporating external contributions from specialists, communities, and relevant actors within the innovation ecosystem.

105. The proposed Program is closely aligned with the innovation vision adopted by the Adaptation Fund Board (document AFB/B.36/8) and with the objectives and expected outcomes of the Adaptation Fund's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS-II 2023-2027). Its design responds to the need to promote innovative, inclusive, and scalable solutions that strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable rural producers in sectors strategic for food security and sustainable development in the region.

106. In line with this vision, the program adopts a definition of innovation consistent with that of the Adaptation Fund, understood as the **creation, testing, implementation, or dissemination of new, adapted, or improved climate adaptation solutions, developed contextually and with the inclusion of the communities most vulnerable to climate change, in order to strengthen their resilience**. This conception, like the proposed program, broadens the scope of innovation beyond the technological domain, also integrating institutional and social approaches with strong territorial roots and an inclusive focus. Through the **science–community partnership methodology, the program extends the concept of innovation to the ways of accessing funding, local engagement, and climate adaptation based on the co-creation of evidence**.

107. **(ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up:** The Program promotes the replication and scaling of successful innovations through Component 3, which focuses on the systematization, documentation, and dissemination of lessons learned, as well as the active promotion of scaling through policy briefs, dialogue tables with decision-makers, and the strategic identification and connection of successful cases with potential funders, public programs, or new calls for proposals. Solutions that demonstrate strong performance in the pilot phases are made visible, contextualized, and communicated to key actors, creating favorable conditions for territorial expansion, institutional adoption, and replicability across different agricultural systems in the region.

108. **(iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation:** The Program significantly strengthens access and capacities for the design and implementation of innovations through Component 2, which offers structured training, technical support, and skills development for community and institutional actors—not only on innovation processes and discussions of the progress of the different Partnerships, but also by strengthening capacities on cross-cutting issues such as environmental, social, and gender aspects, cost-effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation of innovative solutions. These processes enable producers, extension agents, technical teams, and public actors to learn how to co-design, adapt, pilot, and validate climate adaptation solutions while incorporating these approaches, and encourage them to reflect on and systematize the process rather than just the final results. Science–community partnerships are expected to foster collaboration between scientific institutions and local communities—particularly producers vulnerable to climate change—with the goal of **co-creating or co-designing adaptive,** culturally relevant, and evidence-based solutions. **The community ensures relevance, and science ensures evidence.** This approach seeks to move beyond traditional one-way knowledge generation models by integrating technical and traditional knowledge into a participatory process that strengthens territorial resilience, which will be promoted and facilitated by the Program.

109. **(iv) Evidence base generated and shared:** Through Component 3, the Program generates and shares a robust evidence base on the processes, outcomes, and lessons learned from the supported innovations. This includes systematizing the innovation cycle, monitoring the performance of solutions under real-world conditions, producing studies and evidence syntheses, and strategically disseminating them through publications, knowledge platforms, policy briefs, and multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces to ensure that the evidence reaches diverse audiences. The evidence generated not only informs policy and investment decisions but also feeds into the design of future innovations and will be used to identify and facilitate the replication and scaling of the most promising solutions.

110. Through this integrated approach, the program aims to transform the structural conditions that limit innovation in adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to strengthen local capacities to address the impacts of climate change in a sustainable, equitable, and effective manner.

G. Souring small grant proposals for climate adaptation potential

Describe how the project/programme will source innovation 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.

111. The program will leverage the consolidated institutional processes and track record of the FONTAGRO platform to identify, select, and manage small-grant proposals aimed at innovation for climate adaptation. To maximize the reach and diversity of applications, a dissemination strategy will be implemented to ensure the call reaches public institutions that work directly with producer groups, such as agricultural extension and technology transfer entities. Efforts will be made to actively involve them so that they participate specifically as multipliers of the call through their networks and their work with vulnerable producer groups, encouraging their participation and engagement with the project. This strategy will include gender considerations and aspects of inclusion and participation to ensure that vulnerable groups—such as Indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities—can also access the call's information.

112. Each project proposal will be evaluated through a technical, transparent, and participatory two-stage process: a preselection based on eligibility, relevance, and innovation potential; followed by a detailed technical evaluation that includes risk analysis, environmental and social safeguards, operational feasibility, and scalability potential. All criteria and weighting will be clearly specified in the call guidelines. The call will be presented through a **two-session webinar,** and the program will incorporate feedback mechanisms to improve proposal quality, as well as conduct periodic evaluations to adjust the program's approach throughout the innovation development cycle.

113. The evaluation and prioritization criteria will be specifically designed to identify solutions with high potential to generate concrete adaptation actions, reduce climate vulnerability, and strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change. The program will promote a broad and diverse portfolio of innovations, including technological, social, institutional, financial, and nature-based solutions, as well as new applications of existing practices and entirely novel approaches.

114. Proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Member countries of CAF
- Activities not included in the exclusion list (see Annex II) and classified as environmental and social risk category C or B
- Verification of the legal status of the applicants
- Compliance with the minimum formal and administrative submission requirements of the call

115. Climate Innovation Science–Community Partnership project proposals must meet the following minimum evaluation requirements:

- They must be submitted by **Science–Community Partnerships** from the same country, as established in Figure 2. The CVs of the technical leaders and the commitment letters or agreements from each party must be provided, ensuring that these actors have been informed and engaged to participate in the specific innovation ecosystem.
- Submit a f**unctional prototype** of an adaptation innovation project with a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 5 to 8 for acceleration, or, alternatively, TRL 4 for incubation up to TRL 5 and subsequently accelerated to TRL 8. Prototypes with a TRL 5 maturity level will be prioritized,

although those at TRL 4 will also be accepted, provided that their advancement to TRL 8 can be achieved within a maximum period of 24 months.

- Submit a mapping of the key innovation ecosystem actors that the project intends to develop or engage.
- Provide the climate justification of the project, including:
  - Climate problem: the threat, its impact on the agricultural system/producers, the community's climate risk, and how future scenarios could exacerbate the situation.
  - Proposed innovative solution: how it addresses the climate problem for the most vulnerable groups, either by enhancing adaptive capacities or by reducing the exposure or vulnerability of the system, ecosystem, or producer group.
- Submit an Environmental and Social Risk Analysis, Gender Analysis for the proposed solution, Consultation Report, Environmental and Social Management Plan, and the proposal's Gender Action Plan.
- Include a Training and Technical Assistance Plan detailing how producer extension and training will be conducted based on the developed innovation.
- Provide details on how the project will comply with relevant national standards.
- Submit the procurement plan, budget, timeline, and logical framework of the project.
- Include a cost–benefit analysis presenting the economic, gender, environmental, and social benefits associated with the proposal.
- Provide a sustainability plan and scalability potential for the agro-climatic innovation project.
- Identify regulatory barriers or gaps that could hinder the implementation of the innovation.

116. **The Evaluation Panel** will be independent and composed of externally selected evaluators with expertise in innovation and climate resilience in the agricultural sector, chosen through a competitive process. Evaluators will review each proposal for technical and climate relevance, environmental and social safeguards, gender approach, and methodological and operational feasibility within the established timeframe. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflicts of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary.

H. Screening Innovation Proposals for Inclusive and Sustainable Benefits small grant proposals for economic, social and environmental benefits

Describe how the project / programme would screen innovation 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 and Gender Policy of the Fund.

117. The programme will support the incubation and acceleration of at least 20 innovative climate adaptation initiatives across CAF's partner countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. To achieve this, the programme will apply a structured and transparent selection process to ensure that proposed innovations demonstrate strong potential to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits, particularly for communities vulnerable to climate change. The selection and design processes successfully demonstrated through FONTAGRO's innovation programme will be adapted under the AFCIA Programme of the Adaptation Fund to meet the specific needs of climate adaptation. As part of the call for proposals, applicants will be required to demonstrate how their concept addresses the adaptation needs of vulnerable communities while contributing to economic, environmental, and social benefits.

118. Through Component 1—focused on the identification, financing, and strengthening of locally led, context-specific innovative solutions—the programme will generate tangible and comprehensive benefits (economic, social—including gender—and environmental) in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors. The programme will ensure that only proposals with a clear pathway toward positive and inclusive results are selected for support. Potential environmental and social impacts, as well as mitigation measures, will be part of the eligibility criteria, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, as well as CAF's guidelines. As part of the design process, all proponents will be required to submit: (i) a simple gender and social inclusion plan identifying expected outcomes and

measures to ensure equitable access to and distribution of benefits; and (ii) a brief environmental and social risk assessment accompanied by a management plan. This process will be supported by the technical assistance on ESS, GESI, and sustainability included under Component 2. In addition, the results of Component 3—focused on lessons learned and knowledge management—will significantly expand the reach of results, enabling a broader range of stakeholders to access, adapt, and replicate the solutions developed.

119. While the specific benefits will vary according to the type of project selected, and drawing on the sectoral prioritization and lessons learned from FONTAGRO and CAF, it is expected that the financed innovations will generate benefits across four main areas:

120. Economic Benefits**:** By promoting and financing innovative and climate-resilient agricultural, forestry, and fisheries technologies and practices, producers will be able to reduce losses from extreme events, improve the productivity of their systems, and strengthen the stability of their incomes. The development of adaptive innovative ideas will help stimulate rural economies by generating new employment opportunities, strengthening local value chains, and improving the economic autonomy of producers, especially small- and medium-scale producers.

121. Social Benefits**:** The programme will provide technical training, institutional support, and practical knowledge generation, contributing to the empowerment of communities and local change agents. Improvements in productive efficiency and reductions in post-harvest losses due to extreme climate events will increase food and water security in the region.

122. Gender and Equity Considerations: The participatory design of solutions will ensure that women, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups participate from the identification stage through project implementation, promoting their leadership and decision-making. By providing entrepreneurial opportunities for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, the programme contributes to more equitable and socially inclusive economic growth, strengthening the leadership of these groups in local and national economies.

123. Environmental Benefits**:** The technologies and practices promoted will aim to restore soils, protect water sources, reduce pressure on natural ecosystems, and enhance productive biodiversity. By fostering more sustainable production systems, the programme will contribute to reducing the ecological footprint of the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors and strengthening the resilience of socio-environmental systems to climate change.

I. Cost-effectiveness

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

124. The program was designed to maximize efficiency in the use of financial, human, and technical resources, ensuring a high climate impact for every dollar invested through the Adaptation Fund's AFCIA mechanism.

125. According to the selection criteria, priority will be given to achieving concrete results in climate resilience, the technical sustainability of interventions, and a high cost-effectiveness ratio, in line with the strategic objectives of the program. Projects that generate tangible economic, social, and environmental benefits for vulnerable groups and promote gender equality will also be fast-tracked. The call will require a cost-efficiency assessment addressing economic and financial viability through a clear value proposition and a quantitative analysis—as far as possible—of direct and indirect costs, as well as economic, social, financial, and environmental benefits, with particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable communities and traditionally excluded groups. Applicants will also need to compare the cost-benefit ratio of their innovation against the current scenario, explicitly demonstrating its innovative attributes, profitability, and potential to generate sustainable impacts at scale.

126. The Program was designed following best practices in policies and programs for the incubation and acceleration of innovations, which are: i) demand-driven orientation; ii) incubation and acceleration based from the outset on prototypes, not ideas or business plans; and iii) the Sussex approach and its resource triangle.

127. Demand-driven orientation seeks to effectively link scientific and technological development with the needs and preferences of beneficiaries, in this case vulnerable rural communities. This ensures that solutions address real needs, increase the likelihood of adoption, optimize resources, promote

collaboration, and generate sustainable impact. By focusing innovation on priority problems expressed by beneficiaries, this approach maximizes the relevance, efficiency, and scalability of the technologies developed, particularly in rural, agricultural, and climate adaptation contexts. The systematization and dissemination of TRLs facilitate the design of incubation and acceleration mechanisms. For this program, TRL 4 or TRL 5 is required for entry, with a target of TRL 8 as the exit profile. Prototyping is essential for climate adaptation innovations, which involve high environmental variability and uncertainty. Prototypes allow for: i) testing technologies in different microclimates; ii) verifying the resilience of materials and processes; iii) assessing social adoption in rural contexts; and iv) comparing costs and benefits against traditional solutions. A prototype-based innovation program reduces uncertainty, validates technical feasibility, adapts to real users, saves costs, enables rapid learning, and generates solid evidence for scaling. In complex contexts such as agriculture or climate adaptation, prototyping is essential to ensure that solutions truly work and are adopted, making the use of public and private resources more efficient and transparent. Thirdly, it should be highlighted that the program aligns with the immediate relevant context of the Sussex approach to innovation: i) it provides access to technological infrastructure (equipment + technical assistance); ii) it provides access to training for the human resources involved in innovation; and iii) access to relevant financing. This criterion is part of the broader Sussex School innovation approach, which conceives innovation as a systemic, interactive, social, political, and historically situated process, where users, institutions, and contexts are as important as the technology itself.

128. Additionally, the program will leverage existing resources and mechanisms developed by CAF and FONTAGRO, such as methodologies, tools, technical capacities, digital platforms, and proven innovation networks, which will reduce transaction costs and avoid duplication of efforts. Based on its regional experience in promoting agricultural innovation, FONTAGRO will provide technical guidance on project design, offer evaluation criteria, and facilitate knowledge exchange between countries, while contributing its expertise in managing multinational projects and fostering public-private partnerships to generate synergies and optimize implementation.

129. CAF and FONTAGRO, as regional entities with technical presence in LAC, will facilitate the identification, validation, and scaling of innovative adaptation solutions that address common climate challenges in the region. In this regard, the regional approach contributes to the program's cost-effectiveness by enabling economies of scale, as coordinated implementation across countries reduces unit costs for the design, pilot testing, and adoption of adaptive technologies and practices in the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors. It also allows for the shared use of technical and financial resources, since CAF and FONTAGRO will channel specialized knowledge, regional innovation networks, and digital platforms among countries, optimizing resource use and significantly reducing transaction costs. Coordinated actions in dissemination, communication, knowledge exchange, and capacity building will accelerate learning through experience sharing, avoid duplication in innovation processes, and foster synergies among countries with similar climate vulnerabilities. Regarding regional replicability and scalability, solutions will be designed from the outset with high potential for adaptation to the different agroecological and socioeconomic contexts of member countries, increasing investment efficiency and reducing the adaptation cost per beneficiary.

130. Evidence from the IDB (2023) highlights that investments in agricultural research and innovation in LAC are essential to address the combined challenges of climate change, natural resource degradation, and productivity gaps. Technological progress in the sector is no longer limited to increasing production and reducing costs but also focuses on improving quality, expanding harvesting opportunities, and optimizing product conservation and processing. By investing in innovative approaches, including those that enhance productivity, strengthen resilience, and reduce costs, the program leverages a proven type of investment with high returns and significant potential to improve climate change adaptation. According to ECLAC and FAO (2023), average productivity could increase by up to 40% through the adoption of technological innovations and improved management practices. FONTAGRO's experience shows that with an investment of USD 8.1 million across 7 projects, benefits amounting to USD 83.3 million were generated.

J. Alignment to National and Sub-National Strategies

Describe how the project / programme is consistent with national or subnational sustainable development strategies, adaptation planning processes, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs 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.

131. Alignment with national strategies and priorities will be a mandatory criterion in the evaluation and selection of projects. To ensure this, the programme will incorporate specific selection criteria assessing the contribution of each proposal to national instruments such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), Technology Action Plans (TAPs), as well as sectoral priorities for innovation and agricultural research, and other strategies related to development, poverty reduction, and adaptation. The call for proposals will require applicants to clearly explain how their project aligns with these national and subnational frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and other relevant national strategies.

132. In this way, the programme aims to contribute to CAF's commitment, under the UNFCCC framework, to align all its operations with the Paris Agreement. Likewise, the programme aligns with the international commitments assumed by countries in the region under the three Rio Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UNFCCC. In this regard, it contributes to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by promoting an ecosystem-based approach that safeguards biodiversity, including the conservation of ecosystems with high ecological integrity and the preservation of connectivity in agroecosystems.

133. Similarly, the programme supports the conceptual framework of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), driving innovation in restoration, conservation, and sustainable soil management measures to counteract productivity loss, in line with the voluntary targets adopted by countries towards 2030. Additionally, the project contributes to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 by strengthening the resilience of the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors against climate threats and extreme events.

134. Finally, the project incorporates principles from the United Nations System Strategy on Water and Sanitation (2024), recognizing the central role of water in food security and promoting actions aligned with the accelerators of SDG 6—such as innovation, financing, governance, and capacity building.

135. The programme is aligned not only at the regional level but also at the national level with the policies of the 21 CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The vulnerability of the agricultural sector is consistently highlighted in national documents—whether through NDCs or NAPs—where countries identify this sector as a priority for climate change adaptation, with the aim of increasing resilience and strengthening food security for their populations.

136. The programme also directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This is achieved by integrating gender, interculturality, and social inclusion approaches, in line with the commitments undertaken by CAF and the member countries included in this proposal.

K. Alignment with National Technical Standard

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

137. The AFCIA program by CAF/FONTAGRO for LAC ensures that all agricultural innovation proposals are evaluated to verify compliance with relevant national technical standards, sectoral policies, and applicable regulatory requirements in each participating country. This review will be conducted in alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, which will be integrated into the AFCIA program's environmental and social guidelines.

138. During the co-design phase, proposals will be developed collaboratively by research teams, extension or technical assistance services, and agricultural producers. This joint process will demonstrate how the proposed activities align with regulatory frameworks, technical standards, and established best practices for the sector in each country.

139. Among the relevant norms and regulations for the agricultural sector that proposals must consider (as available in each country) are, for example:

- Integrated soil and water management standards, including requirements for soil conservation, efficient water use, and erosion control.
- Regulations on the use and management of plant protection products, such as maximum residue limits, storage and disposal requirements, and national pesticide registries.
- Standards for sustainable agricultural production, such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), national sustainability certifications, or climate-smart agriculture standards.
- Animal health and welfare regulations, including zoosanitary standards, livestock waste management, and disease control.
- Applicable environmental requirements, such as environmental impact assessments, water use permits, ecosystem protection standards, and regulations on emissions and waste management.

140. A non-exhaustive list of these standards will be included in the program guidelines to guide applicant teams during the formulation process.
141. During the proposal evaluation stage, the Evaluation Panel will ensure that the proposals are analyzed considering the national and sectoral regulatory frameworks. If it is identified that any project requires an environmental and social impact assessment, sectoral permits, or national licenses, the program will provide timely technical guidance to ensure that these requirements are identified, managed, and met before project implementation begins.
142. To verify alignment with technical standards for innovation proposals, starting from the call, and regardless of their risk category, each proposal will be required to incorporate **gender aspects, potential environmental and social risks, and present an environmental and social management** plan to avoid, minimize, or mitigate possible impacts. Technical assistance will be provided during the call stage to strengthen the teams in these areas and ensure that all proposals are aligned with and comply with the Adaptation Fund's standards. This information, along with all project requirements, will be reviewed by the evaluation panel, which will analyze the environmental and social screening and gender analysis of each project.
143. As additional evidence of alignment with national and regional frameworks, the Policy Briefs that will be developed during the program's implementation will document, from the initial phase, how each innovation proposal has been designed in coherence with national policies and technical standards. These knowledge products will serve as communication and policy advocacy tools, reflecting the connection between the promoted innovations and the strategic priorities for agricultural development, sustainability, and climate change adaptation of the participating countries.

L. Complementarity with Other Funding Sources

Describe if there is duplication of project / programme with other funding sources, if any.

144. The program has been designed to ensure complementarity with other regional programs, avoiding duplication of efforts. Proposals will be cross-checked with FONTAGRO's database and other funding sources and innovation platforms in LAC, and applicants must declare any related funding in the submission template.
145. This proposal provides additional support to initiatives that CAF has developed in institutional strengthening and the promotion of innovation, reaffirming its commitment to scientific and technological development in LAC. It aligns with previous initiatives such as "Science and Technology Against Hunger."[42] The program, which channeled resources toward technology-based agri-food solutions, is part of CAF's strategy to promote research, development, and innovation processes with regional impact. In this case, the project introduces a novel approach by prioritizing the provision of climate change adaptation grants targeted at agricultural producers, alongside complementary components for institutional strengthening, systematization, and regional dissemination of lessons learned.
146. Unlike other current CAF instruments—such as the loans included in the "Agri-Food Prosperity" strategy launched in 2025 [43], which focus on infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and traditional

[42] Official CAF website / News "CAF provides USD 8 million in financing for 'Science and Technology Against Hunger' projects" July 6, 2021.
[43]Sitio oficial de CAF/Noticia "CAF invertirá USD 8.500 millones hasta 2030 para impulsar la prosperidad agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe" 25 de marzo de 2025.

financing—this proposal emphasizes the promotion of innovative technological and social solutions through direct support to partnerships and institutions. It also offers a unified regional **platform** with standardized criteria and coordinated technical assistance, overcoming the fragmentation and variable country-specific approaches that characterize many IICA innovation programs.

147. The Program also complements and expands FONTAGRO's competitive mechanisms with innovation grants, which emphasize scientific–technological consortia and applied research. This initiative differs by focusing exclusively on adaptation-oriented innovations, with greater community participation in co-design, more robust technical support, and coverage that includes all CAF member countries, even those not part of FONTAGRO. The program's design incorporates key lessons learned from FONTAGRO, drawn from the study "Impactful Innovations: Lessons on Climate Change Adaptation in Family Farming in LAC," conducted by FONTAGRO–IDB–IICA[44] as presented in the context section of this document.

148. As presented in Table 1 of Section A, there are multiple initiatives in the region that support innovation, but with different approaches, beneficiaries, and scales. Analysis of the existing ecosystem shows that, although Latin America and the Caribbean have relevant agricultural and climate innovation initiatives, none combine small-grant financing, personalized technical assistance, a science–community approach, explicit climate adaptation focus, and regional coverage within a unified mechanism. Existing programs target specific segments—scientific research, technology startups, country-specific incubation, or small-scale community support—but do not provide a systematic bridge between local innovation, territorial piloting, and regional scalability. The proposed AFCIA program complements these initiatives by addressing critical gaps in access, coordination, and continuity, avoiding duplication of efforts, and strengthening climate action through a regional coordinating mechanism that operates in alignment with existing actors.

149. In particular, it does not overlap with the mechanisms of other multilateral banks, such as the IDB, whose instruments are primarily directed toward large-scale investments, credit schemes, or market-potential solutions, without a specific grant line for the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors lacking established business models. Likewise, the Program expands regional coverage and multi-stakeholder reach compared to programs such as AgroHub Zamorano and provides higher funding amounts and more robust technical support than programs like the Climate-LAC Innovation Hub or Semilla de la Innovación.

150. Overall, the proposal represents a complementary and strategic contribution within the CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO portfolio, and within the regional climate innovation ecosystem, by integrating efforts and providing capabilities that are not currently available in a coordinated manner.

151. Finally, unlike the operational AFCIA programs, this proposal focuses exclusively on the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors in LAC, providing added value by addressing sectoral and regional needs that are not fully covered by global mechanisms. Lessons from the AFCIA–UNEP II program show that demand far exceeds supply, highlighting the persistent need for support in innovation and adaptation technologies. In this context, the CAF/FONTAGRO program complements existing efforts by offering specialized and context-specific support for a key region and productive sector, helping to expand coverage and better meet the unmet demand for adaptation innovation.

M. Learning and knowledge management

Describe the learning and knowledge management system to capture and disseminate evidence, particularly of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products or technologies generated, as a basis for potential scaling up.

152. The programme incorporates a robust knowledge management system (Component 3) aimed at capturing, systematizing, and disseminating evidence on effective and efficient adaptation practices, products, and technologies. This approach aligns with CAF's regional strategy to drive innovation and productivity in the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors, recognizing that sustainable growth requires not only financial and technical support but also structured learning processes that enable the scaling of effective solutions.

153. Within this framework, the programme will:

44 Innovaciones de impacto. Innovaciones de impacto: lecciones sobre adaptación al cambio climático de la agricultura familiar en América Latina y el Caribe / FONTAGRO. 2015. https://publications.iadb.org/es/publications/spanish/viewer/Innovaciones-de-impacto-Lecciones-sobre-adaptaci%C3%B3n-al-cambio-clim%C3%A1tico-de-la-agricultura-familiar-en-Am%C3%A9rica-Latina-y-el-Caribe.pdf

- **Promote strategic Science–Community Partnerships**, bringing together research centers, innovation institutions, and local actors to co-generate and disseminate knowledge on resilient and sustainable agricultural technologies that have demonstrated success.
- **Document and systematize experiences** arising from the supported initiatives, with emphasis on the effectiveness of sustainable production practices; their technical, social, economic, and environmental performance; technology adoption by producers; improvements in climate resilience; and the factors that facilitate the scalability and replicability of innovations—recognizing that adoption and replication require time and institutional support.
- **Produce knowledge outputs** (case studies in factsheet or poster format, compilations of best practices, and synthesis reports) based on evidence gathered throughout the project cycle, contributing to closing knowledge gaps related to climate-resilient agricultural innovation, supporting informed decision-making, and strengthening the replicability of measures.
- **Conduct economic analyses** on the return on investment of sustainable practices and technologies to document, with evidence, the profitability of investing in innovation, informing scaling strategies and guiding decision-making processes.
- **Promote peer learning and experience exchange** through the FONTAGRO platform, workshops, and virtual spaces that connect beneficiaries with other stakeholders in the region, facilitating the adaptation and replication of successful solutions.

154. The dissemination of learnings will prioritize the generation of practical inputs for decision-makers, agricultural producers, and private sector actors, with a special emphasis on innovation pathways that have proven to be effective and replicable.

155. Additionally, metrics will be established to monitor the use and impact of the knowledge products generated, including the number of systematized lessons learned, the reach of dissemination, and the participation of key stakeholders in exchange activities.

N. Stakeholder Consultative Processes

Describe the consultative process that would take place, and how it will involve all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations.

156. The Program has been designed in consultation with internal teams from FONTAGRO and CAF, as well as relevant experts in various fields such as innovation, climate finance, and agriculture. These consultations helped identify lessons learned from previous processes. Additionally, consultations were held with research and rural development centers such as the National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Argentina (INTA), Zamorano University in Honduras, producer associations such as the National Federation of Farmers and Ranchers of Honduras (FENAC), which represents more than 60% of rural producers, and the Union of Land Workers of Argentina (UTT) with over 25,000 associated producers, as well as the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero, Argentina (MOCASE). Most of these organizations have extensive experience working in the agricultural sector and in innovation and have strongly supported the Program concept, recognizing the need for innovation in climate change adaptation. The highlighted needs — adequate financing, specialized technical assistance, greater inclusion of women and youth, and more robust mechanisms for dissemination and scaling — were key inputs for the design of the Program.

157. The consultative process planned for implementation will be inclusive, participatory, and sensitive to the diverse realities of countries and communities in LAC, with a particular emphasis on the participation of vulnerable groups and the integration of gender considerations. As part of the call for proposals, applicants will be required to document consultations with local stakeholders and demonstrate how these consultations contributed to the definition of the project proposal. Consultation reports will be attached to the application forms, and the selection criteria will explicitly consider the inclusion of vulnerable groups and gender equity. The launch webinar will include a specific session on "Inclusive Stakeholder Participation," which will be part of the co-design training with project managers.

158. The co-design phase will require the active participation of communities, supported by letters of commitment and the formation of consortia to ensure their involvement in the definition, validation, and adjustment of the proposed solutions. This iterative process will ensure that the interventions are culturally and territorially appropriate, equitable, and effective. Pre-selected proponents will need to consult with communities and relevant local institutions and reflect these contributions in their final proposals.

Additionally, each beneficiary will develop a simple gender action plan, with support and guidance from the PMU.

159. Starting from the third year, the Program will promote engagement with greater participation from external stakeholders through open and hybrid innovation sessions aimed at integrating additional actors from the agro-climatic ecosystem. These may include government entities, research centers, international specialists, producer organizations, NGOs, and thematic associations, fostering the exchange and feedback on the conditions necessary to scale effective climate innovations.

160. During project implementation, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will provide continuous technical feedback to ensure that gender, youth, human rights, and social inclusion dimensions are integrated across all stages of the project lifecycle. Finally, the Program will conduct systematic monitoring using gender- and vulnerability-disaggregated indicators, ensuring the measurement of equitable impact and the continuous improvement of participation processes.

O. Incorporating Multi-Stakeholder Views on Innovation in Context

Describe how the project/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.

161. Innovation is fundamental for the transformation of the agricultural sector, and in particular, food systems. However, innovations in agriculture and food systems differ from those in other sectors, largely due to ecological interactions, social relationships, and the local context in which they develop. Likewise, innovation in agri-food systems depends on interactions among numerous actors and institutions along the food production and supply chains, including farmers and their cooperatives, policymakers, research institutions, government agencies, and consumers; it involves a dynamic learning process.

162. In this regard, the Program has been designed taking into account the multiple barriers that producers in the region face in transitioning toward more resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, as well as the asymmetries and varying capacities that countries have in terms of innovation. These differences include the presence of an enabling environment for innovation (technical capacities of professionals, policies or regulations, available infrastructure, institutional quality, among others) and the composition of agricultural systems in each country (farm size, agricultural productivity, access to technology and knowledge, financial support, governance mechanisms, among others).

163. Through the integration of its different components, the Program aims to provide small and medium producers with multiple pathways to develop and adopt innovative practices, through inclusive participation and dialogue among multiple actors, facilitating access to knowledge and resources. In addition, the Program encourages participants or project proponents to consider the various external processes that may, deliberately or inadvertently, affect agricultural systems, such as climate change, environmental degradation, gender inequality, digital barriers, institutional fragmentation (public sector, private sector, NGOs, research institutes, producer associations, others), and changes in consumption patterns or demand for certain foods (shifts in lifestyles—health and diet—, rising consumer incomes, and population growth).

164. Through strategic Science–Community partnerships, the Program places strong emphasis on the co-creation of adaptation measures originating from producers, who serve as the central actors and primary generators of applied knowledge. Holistically, the Program promotes the inclusion of vulnerable groups, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples as agents of change across agricultural systems—not only in field production but also at the political level as decision-makers and in research and development areas.

P. Justification of Full Cost Adaptation Reasoning

Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning. Neither the programme, nor the individual small grant projects will be required to provide co-financing, in line with the Fund's mandate to finance the full cost of adaptation. However, co-financing would be considered a positive addition to the initiative, including top-ups of the programme.

165. The design of the Programme has been carefully developed in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's principle of "full cost of adaptation," ensuring that the proposed activities generate adaptation results autonomously and without reliance on external sources of financing. Particular attention was given to avoiding duplication and maximizing complementarity with existing regional initiatives, guaranteeing that

each intervention directly contributes to reducing climate vulnerability in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors.

166. Likewise, the Programme's formulation incorporated cost-efficiency criteria, optimizing resource use by leveraging the well-established institutional structures of FONTAGRO and CAF for both technical management and administrative and fiduciary processes. Although co-financing is not required under the Fund's mandate, the Programme will benefit from institutional in-kind contributions, including the allocation of technical and operational staff time from FONTAGRO for implementation, supervision, and support to beneficiary partnerships. This contribution strengthens the Programme's sustainability, expands its technical support capacity, and adds value to implementation without affecting the principle of full adaptation cost financing.

167. Below are the scenarios with and without the project for each component.

Component 1

168. Baseline: Many agricultural, forestry, and fisheries producer associations and innovative projects in the region do not independently access conventional financing, as they are often perceived as risky, nascent, or outside the scope of existing financial instruments. At the same time, numerous research institutions generate high-potential technologies and solutions but face structural and financial constraints that limit their ability to bring these results into the field and consolidate adoption and scaling models with producers and rural communities. This restricts the capacity to validate, implement, or expand innovative climate adaptation solutions in the agri-food sector.

169. With AF funds: A key adaptive investment gap is addressed through the design and implementation of a regional financial and technical support mechanism that will enable the identification, selection, financing, testing, and scaling of at least 20 innovative, locally led solutions that strengthen climate resilience through partnerships of local actors.

Component 2

170. Baseline: In the absence of a coordinated strategy, local actors work in a fragmented manner. National and regional institutions have limited capacity to articulate efforts, build partnerships, and promote cooperation that would enable progress in designing, financing, and scaling climate innovation projects—particularly those targeting small producers. As a result, isolated interventions prevail, failing to generate synergies or facilitate the exchange of learning, thereby reducing the impact and effectiveness of adaptation actions on the ground.

171. With AF funds: Smooth technical coordination will be ensured, contributing to increased awareness, sensitization, and capacity building among local producers in climate-vulnerable communities, research institutions, and other key regional actors. Continuous technical assistance and structured spaces for collaboration and learning will be provided to facilitate the adoption of innovative solutions and strengthen the adaptive capacity of climate-vulnerable communities. This support will help build a more cohesive ecosystem capable of sustaining innovation and resilience processes over the long term.

Component 3

172. Baseline: There is limited understanding of climate change and its risks among producers, institutions, and supporting actors. Opportunities to learn about innovative solutions, draw from other experiences, and adopt best practices are scarce and unsystematic, limiting the ability to design effective policies, investments, and programmes.

173. With AF funds: Through an enhanced open-access platform, the Programme will generate learning, systematize experiences, and utilize all information produced to promote regional knowledge exchange and the dissemination of adaptive best practices. Dialogue spaces and joint monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities will be carried out with FONTAGRO's technical network, improving the quality, effectiveness, and scalability potential of the funded projects.

Q. Sustainability

Describe how the sustainability of the programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the programme, including in the screening of the innovation small grants projects. Describe the pathways to scale up successful small grant's projects. The programme should include, in its design, pathways for scaling up, i.e., the process by which successful or promising innovations will be directed towards replication and/or scaling up, including

for Adaptation Fund's financing window Large Innovation Projects/Programmes for the exceptionally promising small grants.

174. The sustainability of the program and its projects is integrated from the design stage, ensuring that results and benefits endure beyond the funding period and can be scaled. To achieve this, the program considers institutional, financial, technical, and social dimensions in a coordinated manner. Additionally, among the selection criteria, priority is given to projects that present a sustainability and scaling plan.

175. Technical and operational sustainability will be ensured through the identification, validation, and strengthening of projects that demonstrate particularly promising results, with evidence-based innovative solutions and high potential for replicability and scalability. These solutions will be evaluated in real-world contexts during the acceleration phase, documenting results and lessons learned to facilitate their adaptation and adoption in different territories. Through Component 3, replicable models, lessons, and evidence will be systematized for use by communities, institutions, and development agencies.

176. Financial sustainability will rely on the demonstrative value of small grants and the validated adaptive models. The evidence generated—impact, cost-effectiveness, climate additionality, and relevance for local actors—will enable the mobilization of new investments from public, private, regional, and multilateral sources. Additionally, the program will establish a preparedness plan and explicit scaling pathways to allow the most promising innovations to access additional funding and advance toward replication or expansion phases. This includes the necessary technical and documentation preparation for consideration by the Adaptation Fund for Large Projects or Innovation Programs.

177. In terms of institutional sustainability, the program will strengthen the technical and organizational capacities of key actors in the agricultural ecosystem in LAC, including communities and producer associations, public institutions, and research centers, among others. By empowering these actors in the design and implementation of adaptation solutions, it ensures that capacities remain within the territories and can sustain and expand interventions once funding ends.

178. Finally, social sustainability will be promoted through local ownership from the outset, ensuring that solutions respond to concrete needs and are co-created with producers from climate-vulnerable communities. This will strengthen the cultural and social relevance of interventions and foster their continuity over time. Priority will be given to the leadership of vulnerable groups—particularly women and youth—in the implementation and dissemination of innovative practices. A community-centered, locally led adaptation approach is key to ensuring the accessibility, legitimacy, and long-term sustainability of solutions beyond program support.

R. Environmental and Social Impact and Risk

Provide an overview of the environmental and social impact and risk screening process that will be put in place for the subgrant project.

179. The Programme and its activities have undergone a preliminary environmental and social risk assessment against the 15 principles established in the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, as presented in the table below. The complete risk screening questionnaire, together with the corresponding mitigation measures, is provided in Annex II of this proposal.

180. Based on the preliminary risk assessment, the Programme has been classified as Category B risk (see Annex II, Classification Section). The identified risk level is mainly due to the fact that most activities cannot be specified or assessed at this stage. Climate innovation initiatives are considered Unidentified Subprojects (USPs) and will be identified and selected at the outset of the proposed Climate Innovation Acceleration Programme. Once the nature of the innovations and their implementation contexts are known, the applicable risk level for each innovation and context will be determined. Therefore, this risk assessment is conducted at the programmatic level, considering risks and provisions within the scope of the ESMP. Each selected initiative entering the climate accelerator will carry out its own environmental and social risk assessment and develop the corresponding mitigation measures.

181. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), together with the Grievance Mechanism, is included in Annex II in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's requirements. At the programmatic level, the ESMP provides mechanisms to track identified risks, as well as any new risks, ensuring that they are properly assessed, monitored, reported, and addressed. The ESMP will be reviewed at a later stage based on the risk assessments of the USPs and will continue to be further developed throughout programme implementation.

Table 5. Programme Environmental and Social Risks

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Compliance with the Law	No further actions required beyond continuous risk monitoring	**No risk.** The Programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use, and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. The AFCIA–CAF evaluation, selection, and technical support mechanisms ensure that subprojects comply with national regulatory requirements from design through implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licenses, permits, and relevant controls. In addition, the institutional capacity-building measures envisaged under the Programme contribute to the consistent and robust application of regulations across different national contexts. The Programme will conduct periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants will be required to demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks at the project design stage (Component 1).
Access and Equity	Additional actions required under the ESMP and the Gender Action Plan (GAP)	**Moderate risk.** Systemic inequities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making, and services for women may create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. While the Programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a particular focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that structural exclusion may persist (e.g., women-led organizations). The Programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation mechanisms and targeted outreach actions for women's groups. **Mitigation measures:** Apply inclusive selection criteria that give weight to partnerships led by women, youth, and representatives of Indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1). An explicit commitment to ensure that information and communication channels are available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with interpretation support provided where appropriate.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups	Additional actions required under the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and continuous risk monitoring (ESMP)	**Moderate risk.** Vulnerable groups—including young women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and subsistence rural households—face compounded disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. These vulnerabilities are recognized in the Gender Analysis in Annex I, particularly in relation to informal economies, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and differentiated impacts of extreme climate events. While the Programme integrates safeguards and seeks to include diverse participants in innovation design and implementation, there remains a risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion without sustained, targeted support. **Mitigation measures:** Applicants must demonstrate inclusive engagement, include vulnerability-disaggregated indicators (primarily by gender, Indigenous status, and age, while remaining open to other characteristics), and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation committee identifying inclusion gaps and risks. Activities may include care

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		services to reduce participation barriers and enable effective engagement (Components 1 and 2).
Human Rights	No further actions required	**Low risk.** The Programme adopts a human rights based and people-centered approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association, and equitable access to programme benefits for smallholders, rural communities, and other stakeholders. However, a low risk of uneven application of these principles remains due to the socioeconomic, cultural, and institutional diversity across participating LAC countries.
Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment	Additional actions required under the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Moderate risk.** While the Programme integrates a gender approach, varying capacities among stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. This risk is mitigated through a structured Gender Action Plan, targeted technical support and mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation but also benefits, leadership, and influence. **Mitigation measures:** Evaluate proposals using criteria that prioritize gender equity and women's leadership; require gender analysis and Gender Action Plans in all proposals; prioritize initiatives led by women researchers, extension agents, and producers (Component 1); provide technical assistance for gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment (Component 2); monitor gender-specific results; and highlight successful innovations benefiting rural women through gender-sensitive communication products (Component 3).
Core Labour Rights	No further actions required beyond ESMS implementation and continuous risk monitoring	**No risk.** The Programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and ILO core labour standards. Periodic supervision will verify compliance across projects. Proposal screening will ensure that each project adheres to applicable labour regulations and that contracted personnel work under appropriate conditions. Compliance with national labour laws will be required in all proposals (Component 1), employment contracts will meet national standards (Component 1), and grievance and labour dispute resolution mechanisms will be available through institutional systems.
Indigenous Peoples	Additional actions required under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Low risk.** The Programme recognizes the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where many Indigenous peoples maintain distinct identities, governance systems, territories, and cultural practices. Science–Community Partnerships innovation processes may involve Indigenous organizations, communities, or territories. Participation of Indigenous peoples is voluntary and will occur through inclusive co-design processes with explicit consent mechanisms. However, in diverse sociocultural contexts, there is a risk that Indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during subproject formulation. **Mitigation measures:** Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1); ensure cultural appropriateness of support and capacity-building processes through the technical team (Component 2).
Involuntary Resettlement	No further actions required	**No risk.** No involuntary physical or economic displacement of people, communities, or agricultural producers is anticipated. Any resettlement would result in a Category A risk classification and would therefore be excluded. Exclusion criterion applied during the evaluation stage (Component 1);

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3).
Protection of Natural Habitats	Additional actions required under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Low risk.** No biodiversity loss or introduction of invasive species is anticipated. Subprojects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure no adverse impacts on flora, fauna, or sensitive ecosystems. **Mitigation measures:** Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); incorporate specific measures in ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2).
Conservation of Biological Diversity	Additional actions required under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Low risk.** No biodiversity loss or invasive species introduction is expected. Projects will align with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. ESIAs/ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, such as avoiding installations affecting bird nesting areas, native vegetation, wetlands, or mangrove ecosystems. **Mitigation measures:** Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); require site-specific environmental assessments (ESIA/ESMP) for subprojects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
Climate Change	No further actions required beyond continuous risk monitoring	**No significant risk.** The Programme focuses on climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts, and other hazards. No significant increase in GHG emissions or reduction in carbon sequestration capacity is expected. Agroforestry or agricultural subprojects will be small-scale and subject to exclusion criteria preventing significant adverse impacts.
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	Additional actions required under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Moderate risk.** Construction-related activities may generate waste, noise, dust, or minor pollution if not properly managed. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient resource use. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy, and materials. **Mitigation measures:** Require simple waste management plans where applicable (Component 1); verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
Public Health	No further actions required beyond continuous risk monitoring	**No risk.** The Programme does not foresee significant public health impacts. Projects may generate minimal, localized, and reversible effects while complying with national public health standards. Environmental screening will include a rapid health impact checklist aligned with WHO standards to identify whether additional assessments or plans are required.
Physical and Cultural Heritage	Additional actions required under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Low risk.** Programme and project activities will not take place in areas containing physical or cultural heritage, nor will they restrict community access to such resources. Design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage, or removal of recognized cultural assets. ESS screening will identify nearby heritage sites; if present, a risk analysis will be conducted and mitigation measures defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders. **Mitigation measures:** Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and potential impacts (Component 1); exclude subprojects that

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		could damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1 – exclusion list).
Lands and Soil Conservation	Additional actions required under the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring	**Moderate risk.** The Programme promotes sustainable soil conservation approaches in land-related interventions. Although exclusion criteria apply to activities involving intensive land use, minor risks may arise from small-scale installations (e.g., building improvements, water tanks). Site-specific assessments and periodic ESS monitoring will be conducted, particularly for infrastructure and WASH activities, incorporating ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts. **Mitigation measures:** Promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during proposal co-development (Component 1); apply safeguard assessments and monitoring for projects with potential soil impacts (Component 3).

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

S. Arrangements for Project Implementation

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.

CAF's Comparative Advantage

182. CAF has a solid track record as a strategic partner in financing and implementing sustainable development programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Its established technical presence in 21 member countries, together with its comprehensive operational capacity—from project design to execution and monitoring—position it as a key regional actor. Accredited as a Regional Implementing Entity by the Adaptation Fund since March 2014, and also by other international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), CAF has demonstrated robust fiduciary, environmental, and social capacities, making it a suitable entity to channel climate finance toward innovative and transformative solutions.

183. In the field of sustainable finance, CAF succeeded in 2024 in converting 41% of its portfolio into green investments, reaching a consolidated portfolio of over USD 34 billion directed toward ecosystem protection, resilient infrastructure, marine conservation, and climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. In that same year, USD 15.787 billion were approved for sustainable development in the region, of which USD 7.094 billion were allocated to strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, improving access to finance for SMEs, and fostering sustainable investments.

184. In the area of climate adaptation, CAF manages emblematic projects in river basins, coastal cities, and transboundary ecosystems, acting as an implementing entity for both the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. CAF has developed initiatives in countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Its technical and institutional approach includes strong experience in environmental and social safeguards aligned with the international standards of both funds.

185. Between 2014 and 2024, CAF allocated USD 1.808 billion in credit operations, equity investments, and technical cooperation to promote a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector. These actions

included corporate loans, credit lines to financial institutions, and the management of international funds such as the GEF and the GCF, totaling USD 140 million. As a result, the incomes of at least 550,000 families and 210,000 agricultural producers in the region improved. Greater access to finance and to sustainable technologies was fostered, along with increased availability of inputs, stronger value-chain integration, and the adoption of climate-resilient practices such as efficient water use, seed genetic improvement, and producer certification. CAF has also announced an investment of USD 8.5 billion through 2030 to advance agricultural prosperity with a sustainable, resilient, and regenerative approach, consolidating its role as a key financial driver of the sector in the region.

186. In the field of innovation, incubation, and acceleration, CAF reaffirms its commitment to technological and business development through the promotion of innovation ecosystems aimed at competitiveness and sustainability. By supporting startups, venture funds, and collaborative projects, CAF fosters the growth of high-impact strategic sectors.

187. CAF launched InNatureLab, together with LATIMPACTO and the Trafigura Foundation, a program that supports innovative bioeconomy solutions through financial and non-financial assistance. This open innovation and co-creation laboratory includes the participation of vulnerable local communities in strategic ecosystems, promoting sustainable development models.

188. In partnership with the GCF, CAF implements the Green MSMEs LAC program, which helps small and medium-sized enterprises in Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru transition to more sustainable practices. The program is expected to benefit over 1,200 MSMEs with green financing, generate more than 5,000 green jobs, and train 720 MSMEs, 39% of which are expected to be women-led. The program offers attractive financial conditions—such as concessional rates and grace periods—facilitating investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable land use. Technical assistance is also provided to identify projects, measure GHG emissions, and strengthen environmental and social risk management (SARAS) and gender strategies.

189. CAF also promotes financial education and inclusion programs. To date, an estimated 7.7 million people and 55,024 micro and small enterprises have benefited from financial inclusion projects, and over 19 million people from financial education initiatives. The Financial Inclusion Lab (LIF 2024) stands out to support technological solutions—such as artificial intelligence—to close financial inclusion gaps. In its sixth edition, the LIF received 219 applications, evaluated 93 proposals, and selected 8 winners, with an estimated impact of more than 31,000 underserved people and 8,190 MSMEs.

190. CAF possesses key institutional advantages: a regional structure that facilitates coordination across multiple countries; a multidisciplinary technical approach integrating social, environmental, and productive dimensions; and the ability to mobilize complementary financial resources, both public and private. Its role as a supranational institution uniquely positions it to foster South-South cooperation, scale up learnings, and replicate innovative solutions at the regional level. In 2024, CAF reaffirmed its commitment to biodiversity through strategic partnerships and new initiatives, consolidating its role as a regional facilitator in the environmental agenda.

191. Within the AFCIA program, CAF's participation as an accredited entity will enable effective coordination across sectors and countries, connect local innovators with climate finance opportunities, and ensure an efficient, inclusive, and results-based implementation. This will strengthen scalability, sustainability, and the transformative impact of the proposed programme.

Comparative Advantage of IICA (Executing Entity) and FONTAGRO (Implementing Partner)

192. IICA and FONTAGRO maintain a consolidated and complementary institutional relationship. IICA serves as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat of FONTAGRO, providing operational and fiduciary support, while FONTAGRO leads the technical management of regional initiatives. This collaboration has proven effective in the joint implementation of agricultural innovation and climate adaptation projects across Latin America and the Caribbean.

193. FONTAGRO and IICA are ideal strategic partners for implementing the AFCIA program. FONTAGRO brings more than two decades of experience in financing and coordinating agricultural research and innovation consortia with a regional, multisectoral, and results-oriented approach. IICA, for its part, has an extensive track record in the implementation of large-scale programs, with territorial presence in all countries of the region, strong technical capacities, and a broad cooperation network involving governments, research centers, producers, and grassroots organizations.

194. Both institutions share a vision centered on transforming agrifood systems with equity, resilience, and sustainability. They have operational mechanisms for fiduciary management, social and environmental safeguards, and impact monitoring, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and alignment with the standards of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.

195. FONTAGRO has the following strengths relevant to the program:

- Effective presence in territories and communities vulnerable to climate risk (e.g., Indigenous communities in the Southern Cone).
- Ability to connect science, local communities, and public institutions, generating tangible impact.
- Proven participatory innovation models adapted to local and cultural contexts.
- Established networks of scientific and productive cooperation, backed by technical expertise and collaborative financing.

196. IICA is the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for Agriculture and Rural Development, with more than 80 years of experience and permanent presence in the 34 member countries of the Americas. Its mission is to support Member States in achieving sustainable agricultural development, food security, and climate resilience through technical cooperation, innovation, and coordination among agricultural sector stakeholders.

197. The Institute has extensive experience in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of regional projects, working with governments, international organizations, producer associations, research centers, and rural communities. It possesses multidisciplinary technical capacities, knowledge networks, regional platforms, and mechanisms to ensure compliance with environmental, social, and fiduciary standards, in accordance with the requirements of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.

198. In addition, IICA promotes the transformation of agrifood systems with an emphasis on sustainability, inclusion, and climate adaptation, facilitating participatory innovation processes and institutional strengthening across the continent.

Institutional structure

199. The program will be implemented through an institutional structure that brings together the Implementing Entity (IE), the Executing Entity (EE), the Program Management Unit (PMU), and a Steering Committee. This arrangement ensures strategic coordination, technical soundness, and compliance with Adaptation Fund policies. In addition, the proposed structure aligns with international best practices in innovation incubation and acceleration, ensuring clear roles, transparent decision-making processes, and an efficient, results-oriented operation.

Implementing Entity (IE): CAF

200. CAF will act as the Implementing Entity (IE) before the Adaptation Fund and will be responsible for:

- the overall supervision of the programme,
- compliance with fiduciary, environmental, social, and gender policies,
- validation of milestones and reports,
- formal liaison with the Adaptation Fund.

201. CAF will also participate in the strategic governance of the programme.

202. In accordance with Adaptation Fund guidelines, CAF will coordinate the contracting of the mid-term evaluation and the final evaluation of the programme. These evaluations will be carried out by independent external entities and are mandatory requirements of the Fund to ensure quality, learning, and accountability.

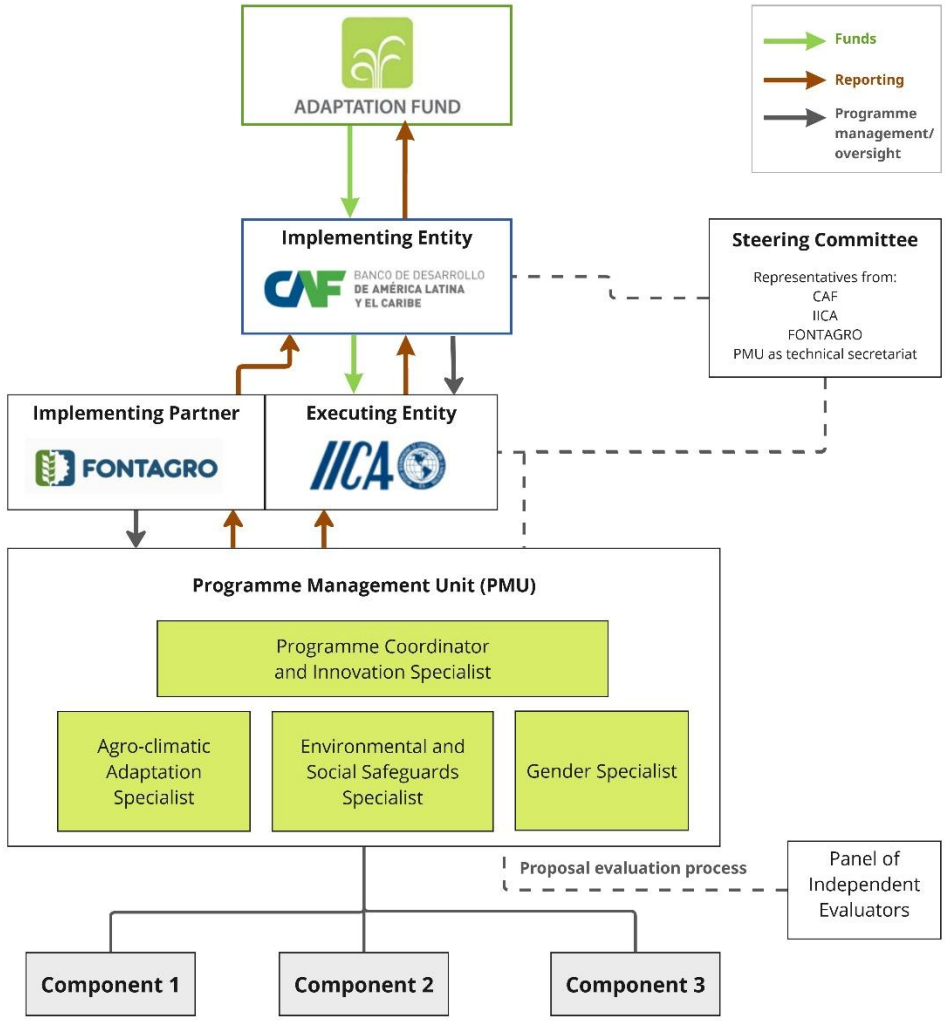
Executing Entity (EE): IICA

203. The Executing Entity will be the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which will be the institution signing the legal agreement with CAF.

Implementing Partner: FONTAGRO

204. FONTAGRO, as a mechanism hosted within IICA, will serve as the Implementing Partner and will lead the technical execution of the program.

Figure 5. Institutional structure of the programme.



Roles of IICA and FONTAGRO

205. IICA, as the administrative and fiduciary executor, will:

- carry out all program-related procurement and contracting.
- refrain from issuing direct disbursements to beneficiary partnerships, thereby reducing fiduciary risks.
- apply IICA's fiduciary and procurement procedures.
- contribute technical opinions in all areas required by the project

206. FONTAGRO, as the technical lead within IICA, will be responsible for:

- the technical direction of the programme.
- the design and management of competitive calls for proposals.

- technical support to the partnerships.
- the integration and monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards.
- knowledge management and dissemination of results.

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

207. The PMU constitutes the operational core of the program and will be responsible for day-to-day implementation, cross-cutting technical support, and activity monitoring. The PMU may coordinate with IICA's national offices and, when relevant, with FONTAGRO-related national networks to facilitate technical assistance, guidance, or operational coordination in the countries where projects are implemented.

Composition of the PMU

208. The PMU will be composed of:

- Program Coordinator and Innovation Specialist (combined role): leads the program, coordinates the technical team, and also assumes monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions. Serves as the methodological lead for incubation and acceleration.
- Agro-climatic Adaptation Specialist
- Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist
- Gender Specialist

209. The PMU will be supported by an Administration and Finance Specialist from IICA.

210. The PMU specialists will provide cross-cutting technical assistance to beneficiary partnerships throughout all phases of the program. Their responsibilities include:

- preparing Terms of Reference (ToR) for calls and evaluations.
- developing technical guidelines, manuals, and methodological tools.
- designing and delivering webinars, virtual workshops, and orientation sessions.
- providing technical support to selected projects on climate, environmental, social, gender, and innovation topics.
- supporting information consolidation for program monitoring.
- coordinating with IICA's national offices involved in country-level execution.
- contributing to knowledge management and the generation of learning products.

211. The Program Coordinator–Innovation Specialist will lead planning, indicator tracking, report consolidation, and the strategic coordination of the PMU with CAF and relevant IICA departments.

212. The PMU will implement technical monitoring through FONTAGRO's monitoring platform, which integrates progress indicators as well as social, environmental, and gender indicators.

Programme Steering Committee

213. A committee will be established, composed of:

- CAF (IE),
- IICA (EE),
- FONTAGRO (technical component of the EE).
- The PMU Coordinator will serve as Technical Secretariat.

214. This committee will be responsible for strategic direction, validation of work plans, and oversight of progress.

Call for Proposals and Evaluation Processes

215. **Eligibility screening:** Conducted by the PMU, including verification of formal, institutional, geographic, and strategic alignment criteria.
216. Independent technical evaluation: Eligible proposals will be assessed by a competitively selected panel of external evaluators.
217. Depending on the number of project proposals received, each evaluator will review approximately 35 proposals, assessing:

- technical and climate relevance, consistent with the Adaptation Fund criteria for innovation in adaptation.
- environmental and social safeguards.
- gender approach.
- methodological and operational viability.

218. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflict of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary.

Relationship with Beneficiary Partnerships

219. No direct disbursements will be made to partnerships.
220. Instead, IICA will carry out the procurement and contracting necessary for the execution of approved activities, strengthening fiduciary controls and reducing risks.
221. Partnerships will receive continuous technical support from the PMU.

T. Financial and project/programme risk management

Describe the measures for financial and project / programme risk management.

222. The following table presents the main financial, operational, strategic, compliance, and environmental risks, along with their initial risk ratings and corresponding mitigation measures. These measures are designed to ensure that the Program remains on track and is adaptable to changing circumstances.

Table 6. Financial and Project Risk Management Framework

Risk category	Risk description	Initial Risk		Proposed Mitigation measures
		Probability	Impact	
Operational	Risk of insufficient participation in the regional call for proposals	Low	High	To mitigate the risk of low participation, an outreach and applicant mobilization strategy will be implemented at different stages: (i) pre-call, through early dissemination and awareness-raising actions led by CAF–IICA–FONTAGRO via their institutional channels and partners; (ii) during the call, through multi-channel outreach led by CAF (including CAF and IICA networks and the communication and outreach channels of national/subnational governments) and informational support to address questions and facilitate applications; and (iii) closing and last mile, through a final push and, if necessary, operational adjustments to broaden reach. As a second complementary resource, targeted outreach will be carried out to the

				FONTAGRO´s pipeline and to networks of partners linked to innovation, incubation, and acceleration, to expand the pool of applicants while maintaining open and competitive criteria.
Operational	Limited proposal quality due to insufficient project formulation capacity among the Science–Community Partnerships.	Medium	Medium	The program includes technical support for proposal development, guidance materials, and a helpdesk to assist all stakeholders. Component 2 will provide support for the development and strengthening of specific capacities for grantees and other stakeholders, in order to improve the co-design of innovation projects for adaptation.
Operational	Risk of exclusion of vulnerable producers, particularly women, during the design of climate innovation projects.	Medium	Medium	The Program will work in partnership with territorial extension agencies to reach vulnerable producers through their existing networks. The technical capacities of extension agents will be strengthened to disseminate information about the calls for proposals. Where necessary, materials will be translated into relevant Indigenous languages. In addition, a Gender Action Plan will be required for each proposal.
Operational	Operational risk of delays in centralized procurement and contracting processes, which could affect the project implementation schedule.	Medium	Medium	Application of IICA's standardized procurement procedures. Early preparation of procurement plans for each subproject. Monthly monitoring of procurement progress by the PMU. Timely communication with suppliers and project teams to avoid bottlenecks.
Operational	Operational risk arising from variability in the administrative capacity of local organizations participating in the partnerships, which could lead to delays, administrative errors, or coordination challenges.	Medium	Medium	Continuous administrative technical assistance provided by the PMU. Use of standardized templates for planning, reporting, and documentation. Initial training for local organizations on the program's operational procedures. Periodic supervision and close support during the initial months of implementation.
Strategic	High failure rate of innovative projects,	Medium	Medium	The programme explicitly anticipates and manages innovation risk; failure is treated as part of the learning cycle.

	particularly incubator stage grants			Technical mentoring, iterative design processes and adaptive management will be embedded throughout implementation. **A minimum TRL threshold will be required at entry**, ensuring that supported concepts start from a relatively mature stage and reducing the likelihood of early technical failure. Learning from both success and failure will be systematically captured and shared through the programme's knowledge platform.
Strategic	Grantees fail in securing scale up and replication support and funding from other sources after the completion of the project	Medium	Medium	Acceleration and Amplification support will be provided **only to proven concepts** with demonstrated feasibility and adaptation potential. The programme will strengthen linkages with public institutions, private investors and regional initiatives to facilitate follow-on financing. The programme will support grantees in articulating business cases, scaling pathways and partnership strategies. With all support mechanisms considered, **realistic success rates are expected to remain in the 20–30% range**, consistent with global innovation accelerators.
Strategic	Risk of overlap or duplication with other climate innovation initiatives in the LAC region.	Medium	Low	Proposals will be cross-checked against FONTAGRO's database and other innovation funding sources and platforms in LAC. Applicants must declare any related funding in the pitch template.
Compliance	AF grants are used to support money laundering financing or prohibited practices.	Low	Medium	All activities will be carried out in accordance with the anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies and procedures established by the program, CAF, and IICA to minimize these risks, including strong oversight, monitoring, and reporting practices. IICA, acting as the administrative and fiduciary executing entity, will conduct all procurement and contracting processes on behalf of the programme and will not make direct disbursements to beneficiary partnerships, significantly reducing fiduciary risks. Robust due diligence procedures will be applied to all grantees and partners, including verification of legal status,

				financial integrity, and compliance with CAF and IICA fiduciary standards. Regular audits, financial reviews, and monitoring visits will ensure early detection and mitigation of any irregularities.
Environmental	Climate and non-climate hazards prevent or delay the execution of activities	Medium	Medium	Adaptive management approaches and contingency planning will be used, with flexible implementation timelines. Regular communication with grantees will help reduce disruptions. FONTAGRO's regional presence and local Science–Community partnerships will support continuity.

U. Environmental and Social Risk Management

223. The risk management approach of the AFCIA–CAF program is integrated into the mechanism's procedures and is designed to identify, assess, monitor, and support adaptation innovation projects through a system proportional and appropriate to the type of intervention.
224. Since the calls are specifically targeted at science–community partnerships, the proposals funded under the program components are defined only at the submission stage. Each project submitted by these partnerships will undergo a comprehensive environmental and social assessment and risk categorization process before final approval and implementation. This ensures a robust, coherent, and risk-sensitive Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) capable of adapting to the diversity of innovations and territorial contexts in which research institutions, extension agencies, and community organizations participate.
225. The evaluation and categorization process will be carried out using standardized tools and guidelines, applying a preliminary analysis tool (Annex II, Appendix I) that will subsequently allow the PMU to assign a risk classification (Category B or C) to each project.
226. The program will not finance Category A (high-risk) projects. Although the location and specific characteristics of the projects will be defined during each call, proposals are expected to fall within low- or moderate-risk interventions, typical of work with science–community partnerships in productive territories.
227. Projects are expected to involve low to moderate environmental and social risks, generally site-specific, temporary, and manageable. To manage these risks in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Management System (ESGP – Environmental and Social Policy), the following measures have been integrated into the program design:

Initial Evaluation and Risk Categorization

228. Each science–community partnership project will present an initial environmental and social risk analysis, using the screening tool available in the ESMS (Annex I), aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy. These will then be classified by the PMU.
229. Proposals will be classified as Category B (moderate risk) or Category C (minimal or low risk), based on the level of environmental and social risk.
230. The program will not finance Category A (high-risk) projects as established by the Adaptation Fund (AF).
231. The categorization will determine the level of analysis required:

- **Category B:** will require a detailed ESMP, based on site-specific information and informed by additional studies (e.g.,ESIA) when applicable.
- **Category C:** will require a simplified ESMP, documenting regulatory compliance and establishing basic mitigation measures.

Integration of Safeguards and Design Support

232. During the proposal design phase, the environmental and social safeguards specialist from the PMU, in alignment with the Adaptation Fund's standards, will provide support to the Science–Community Partnership teams to:

- Identify social and environmental risks and opportunities,
- Formulate mitigation and management measures,
- Fully integrate the Adaptation Fund's safeguards policies,
- and develop ESMPs proportional to the level of risk.

233. In addition to the risk analysis mentioned, each project must include an ESMP with:

- Mitigation actions,
- Institutional responsibilities,
- Monitoring indicators.

Capacity Building

234. The program includes technical assistance and specific training on the Adaptation Fund's safeguards, risk management, social inclusion, and gender, as well as on the use of risk screening and planning tools.

235. The PMU will conduct workshops, provide direct support, and be available for consultations to ensure that stakeholders understand and apply the AF requirements during the design and implementation of climate innovation projects.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

236. The PMU will conduct environmental and social monitoring as part of the program's MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning), ensuring alignment with the Adaptation Fund’s requirements.

237. Environmental and social indicators will be integrated into the performance framework and include disaggregated data (e.g., by gender, age, and vulnerability).

238. Monitoring will include:

- random verifications,
- consultations with communities,
- document review of ESMP compliance,
- possible field visits.

239. The results will feed into adaptive learning processes, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's guidelines.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

240. The program will have an accessible, transparent grievance redress mechanism (GRM) compatible with the Adaptation Fund’s Complaints Mechanism, available to all stakeholders: producers, community organizations, scientific institutions, and project partners

241. The PMU will be responsible for:

- registering and managing complaints,
- providing timely follow-up,
- documenting responses and actions taken,
- reporting to the Adaptation Fund as necessary.

V. Monitoring & Evaluation

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

242. The Program will implement a robust, participatory, and learning-oriented Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, designed to ensure traceability of results, adaptive management, and the systematic

generation of evidence on the processes and outcomes of supported innovations. The M&E approach aligns with CAF guidelines, FONTAGRO practices, and FA standards for innovation and climate adaptation projects.

243. The Program Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the M&E plan, led by the Program Coordinator, who will be supported by a specialized consultant for the development and monitoring of a specific M&E plan for each funded project. This decentralized approach will capture the territorial, sectoral, and technological diversity of the innovation portfolio, while ensuring methodological consistency at the program level.

244. In close coordination with CAF and FONTAGRO, the PMU will implement harmonized monitoring tools, particularly through FONTAGRO's knowledge management and M&E platform, which will be strengthened to:

- Record project progress in real time.
- Collect standardized indicators (including TRL indicators, gender, socio-environmental relevance, and early adoption).
- Integrate qualitative monitoring processes (learning diaries, test-learn-develop cycles).
- Facilitate comparative analysis between projects, countries, and types of solutions.
- Incorporate the monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards.

245. The M&E approach will be based on three operational principles:

- Participatory and inclusive monitoring: Involving producers, technical institutions, and Science-Community partnerships in the data collection and verification process, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders contribute to the monitoring efforts and that their local knowledge and perspectives are integrated;
- Evidence-based learning, through periodic reflection and feedback mechanisms, technical progress reports, and review workshops with project teams; and
- Sensitivity to gender, youth, and inclusion, through the systematic collection and analysis of disaggregated data and the incorporation of social variables in the evaluation of innovation performance.

246. The monitoring responsibilities will be organized as follows:

- The **PMU** will work under the supervision of FONTAGRO and will carry out daily operational monitoring, consolidate project reports, and ensure data quality, safeguard compliance, and consistency with the program's results framework. For M&E, it will rely on FONTAGRO's platform, which will be adjusted to allow M&E for this Program and will provide technical support to ensure alignment with FONTAGRO's procedures.
- **IICA** will carry out financial and administrative monitoring of the Program.
- **CAF** will oversee compliance with the FA requirements, ensure the methodological consistency of the indicators with FA guidelines, contract the mid-term and final evaluations of the Program, and supervise the compiled reports of the Program, including aspects related to progress on results, risks, environmental, social, and gender safeguards, as well as administrative-financial matters.

247. The program will include the following aspects of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting:

- **Kick-off Workshop and Start-up Report:** At the beginning of the program, a launch workshop will be held with the implementing entity, partners, and relevant stakeholders to review key milestones, adjust the operational plan, and consolidate agreements on roles and coordination mechanisms. Following this activity, the PMU will prepare a Start-up Report documenting the agreements reached and outlining the planned actions for the first implementation period.
- **Review of Key Innovation Project Indicators and Baseline:** The PMU will work together with the M&E consultant to analyze, once the projects are selected, which indicators require the collection of additional initial information. This analysis will identify gaps and define specific tools for data capture in the field. Based on this review, each project will be requested to collect the necessary information to complete its baseline values. Subsequently, the PMU will consolidate all these inputs into an Initial Baseline Report for the program, which will serve as the starting point for subsequent monitoring and evaluation of progress against the results framework.

- **Periodic Monitoring of Indicators and Field Visits:** Monitoring will be conducted continuously, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data disaggregated by sex, age, and other inclusion criteria. Field visits are planned to verify progress, validate reported information, and discuss results with local stakeholders. The PMU will consolidate this information into semi-annual reports to be sent to CAF. The program will promote a participatory monitoring approach, integrating youth and community organizations in the data collection process, which will then be systematized on the FONTAGRO platform and compiled by the PMU.
- **Environmental, Social, and Gender Monitoring:** Environmental, social, and gender specialists will monitor compliance with specific plans (such as the Environmental and Social Management Plan, Gender Plan, among others). They will submit periodic reports with progress, alerts, and corrective actions, which will be shared during the Program's annual monitoring sessions.
- **Annual monitoring and preparation of the Project Performance Report (**PPR). The PMU coordinator will consolidate the available data to complete the annual PPR report, which will assess performance against targets, risks, and safeguards. CAF will review and process this information in compliance with the Adaptation Fund guidelines.
- **Annual supervision missions**. CAF will carry out annual field missions together with the PMU to review progress, identify operational challenges, and formulate recommendations to optimize implementation.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation**. At the midterm of the Programme cycle, an external evaluation will be conducted to analyze the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of implementation, and to provide strategic recommendations to strengthen the second phase of the Programme. CAF will oversee this process and ensure technical quality in accordance with its institutional standards.
- **Project Completion Report**: Prior to conducting the final evaluation, the PMU will prepare a Final Project Report summarizing results, lessons learned, progress against the results framework, financial execution, safeguards performance, and compliance with environmental, social, and gender plans. This report will serve as the main input for the independent team in charge of the final evaluation, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of implementation and achievements.
- **Final Programme Evaluation**. An independent consultant will carry out a final evaluation to assess results, sustainability, and lessons that can inform future programmes. The evaluation shall be aligned with the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.
- **Closing workshop and dissemination of lessons learned**. Upon completion of the Programme, a virtual closing workshop will be held to share results, good practices, and lessons learned, as well as to promote opportunities for scaling up, replication, and articulation with new initiatives or financing.

248. Table 7 includes the main milestones along with their budget, frequency, and monitoring responsibility.

Table 7. Budgeted monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan

Report	Responsible party	Budget (USD)	Timeframe
Inception Report	Program Coordinator	2,000 (included in the Program budget)	1 month after completion
Baseline Report	Program Coordinator M&E Consultant	6,000 (included in the Program budget)	3 months after the selection of the Partnerships and Innovation Projects
Monitoring of selected projects through the FONTAGRO *dashboard*	Program Coordinator	15,600 (included in the Program budget)	Monthly
Technical and financial progress reports	Program Coordinator	26,000 (included in the Program budget)	At the end of each quarter
Environmental, social, and gender safeguards monitoring	Program Coordinator Environmental, Social, and Gender Safeguards	38,880 (included in the Program	At the end of each quarter

	Specialist	budget)	
Annual analysis and preparation of the Project Performance Report (PPR)	Program Coordinator CAF	80,000 (included in the IE Fee)	Annually, 2 months after the end of the implementation calendar year
Annual monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards, and environmental, social, and gender management plans	Environmental and Social Safeguards and Gender Specialist (PMU) CAF	29,720 (included in the Program budget and IE Fee)	Annually for 4 year
Follow-up missions	CAF PMU	40,000 (included in the IE Fee)	Annually for 4 years
Mid-term evaluation	External Consultant IICA	40,000 (included in the IE Fee)	2 years after project start
Final Project Report	Program Coordinator CAF	10,000 (included in the IE Fee)	End of the Project (6 months after project completion)
External final evaluation	External Consultant CAF	70,000 (included in the IE Fee)	At project closure (within 9 months after completion)
Closing workshop and lessons learned	PMU CAF	20,000 (included in the IE Fee)	At project closure
Financial audits	CAF - IICA External Audit	40,000 (included in the PEC)	Annual audit (Executing Entity) and at project completion (Implementing Entity, within 6 months after the close of the fiscal year in which the programme ended).
Total		**418,200**	

W. Results framework

Include a results framework for the project / programme proposal, including milestones, targets, and indicators.

249. The Programme will have a results framework that guides the systematic monitoring of its implementation and the changes generated, including targets and key indicators. As this is a programmatic approach, the specific adaptation benefits of each project for vulnerable agricultural producers are not pre-defined at this stage. The contracted M&E specialist will ensure relevant indicators to measure adaptation benefits for producers in the field, which will be reported and identified once the Projects are selected. This framework integrates indicators aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework and ensures the cross-cutting incorporation of gender equality principles, in coherence with the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social policy and gender policy.

Table 8. Results Framework

Project Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification & Monitoring Responsibility (MR)	Risks and Assumptions
To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the	Number of accelerated and validated innovation solutions that generate evidence of increased resilience of vulnerable farmers' groups (TRL 7–8).	0	18	Project monitoring platform + evaluation with evidence of adaptation benefits	• Community and institutional actors validate the innovations and apply the accelerated innovations. • Farmers find value in innovation • Estimates: 90% of the supported partnerships manage to validate and generate evidence of the innovation

agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.				MR: PMU and CAF	Direct beneficiaries include: 60 farmers or community actors per 20 innovation projects, and 120 institutional actors with increased capacity and knowledge on innovation for adaptation in the agricultural sector. Adaptation benefit: specific indicators to be defined for each selected innovation project.
	Total number of beneficiaries with increased adaptive capacity to climate impacts in the agricultural sector. Women Of which, youth Of which Indigenous People Men Of which, youth Of which Indigenous People	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1320 462 92 36 858 257 84	Evaluation MR: PMU and CAF	

Component 1:					
Outcome//Output	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Means of Verification & Monitoring**	**Risks and Assumptions**
Outcome 1 Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	Number of innovation solutions that are tested and field-tested with vulnerable communities for agricultural adaptation (TRL-6).	0	20	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	•Actors are able to dedicate time and personnel to collaborative co-design processes. • The technical, climate, and socio-environmental information required for design is available. • Partnerships achieve internal agreements and minimum governance arrangements. • There are no significant regulatory barriers to developing prototypes (inputs, technologies, permits). Estimate: Institutional actors: 6 institutional representatives per partnership Community actors: 60 producers or community actors per partnership
	Number of innovators supported by the Program who manage to field-test the innovation with vulnerable producers, of which Women Of which, youth Of which, Indigenous People Men Of which, youth Of which, Indigenous People	0	1320 462 92 36 858 257 84	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of Partnerships that carry out at least one iterative learning cycle and record the process and evidence of the innovation.	0	20	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
Output 1.1 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes	Number of innovative proposals for agricultural adaptation co-designed and developed with the inclusion of vulnerable producer groups, of which Focused on women's groups Focused on youth groups Focused on Indigenous peoples' groups	0 0	20 6 2 1	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of Science–Community Partnerships that implement formal collaboration mechanisms (technical exchange, assistance, and co-design) to develop and test innovative agricultural adaptation solutions, of which Focused on women's groups Focused on youth groups	0 0	20 6 2	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	

	Focused on Indigenous peoples' group	0	1		
	Number of partnerships that participate and apply to the Science-Community Partnerships call for Agricultural Innovation proposals.	0	300	Participant registration in webinars and sessions with extension workers MR: PMU	
Component 2:					
Outcome/Output	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Risks and Assumptions**
Outcome 2: Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	Number of institutional actors from the partnerships that demonstrate increased knowledge and its application to innovate, co-design, and validate innovative solutions, including the needs of groups most vulnerable to climate change, as well as social, environmental, and gender aspects. Of which women Of which men Of which youth	0 0 0 0	120 48 72 24	Evaluation Project monitoring platform MR: PMU and CAF	• Innovation cycles and technical assistance generate useful and actionable learnings. • Actors are able to dedicate time and personnel to collaborative co-design processes. • Key actors are willing to collaborate.
	Number of producers or community actors who have tested and applied innovative adaptation solutions incubated or accelerated by the Programme <u>Women</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous <u>Men</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1200 360 72 36 840 252 84	Evaluation Project monitoring platform MR: PMU and CAF	
	Number of financed partnerships that report increased knowledge on agricultural innovation, environmental and social issues, gender, and the measurement of agricultural resilience benefits. Focalizados en grupos de mujeres Focused on women's groups Focused on youth groups Focused on Indigenous Peoples' groups	0 0 0 0	20 6 2 1	Evaluation Project monitoring platform MR: PMU and CAF	
Output 2.1: Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender,	Number of community actors sensitized on agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage. <u>Women</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous <u>Men</u> Of which youth	0 0 0 0 0 0	900 **315** 126 31 **585** 175	Record of participants in webinars and sessions with extension agents. MR: PMU	<u>Estimate:</u> 3 community members per 300 partnerships

environmental, and social approaches	Of which Indigenous	0	58		
	Number of institutional actors trained in agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage. Of which women Of which men Of which youth	0 0 0 0	120 48 72 24	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU and CAF	Estimate: 4 technical institution representatives per 300 partnerships
	Number of people participating in open innovation sessions to enhance exchange and learning. Of which women Of which men Of which youth Of which Indigenous Peoples	0 0 0 0 0	400 140 260 40 40	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU and CAF	Estimate: 20 people per open innovation session
Component 3					
Outcome 3: Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	Number of knowledge products and dissemination spaces with validated evidence of adaptation benefits for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector achieved through innovations accelerated by the Programme.	0	33	Systematization MR: PMU	• There are funding opportunities and calls for proposals to scale up and replicate the most prominent innovations. Estimate: Compiles output (6 dissemination initiatives + 20 publications + 1 systematization + 1 online catalog + 2 policy briefs + 2 dialogue roundtables + 1 marketplace).
	Percentage of participatory instances and knowledge products that promote equity and inclusion (language, schedules, women speakers).	0	100%	Record of equity and inclusion measures MR: PMU	100% of participatory instances include equity and inclusion considerations.
Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Number of participants in workshops or dissemination and exchange events, virtual or hybrid, with inclusive representation <u>Women</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous <u>Men</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	240 84 16 8 156 46 15	Records of participants MR: PMU	•institutional actors are interested in sharing and participating in events. Estimate: Programme dissemination and communication initiatives: 2 workshops at mid-term and closure (100 participants in each). 4 annual FONTAGRO workshops with 10 participants per workshop.
	Number of the Programme's dissemination and communication initiatives with a gender-sensitive language management protocol.	0	6	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of technical publications with a gender-sensitive language management protocol.	0	20	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of systematized success stories Of which focused on women	0 0	6 1	Project monitoring platform	

				MR: PMU	
	Online catalog of innovative solutions created	0	1	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of policy briefs with policy recommendations based on Programme learnings, including recommendations on gender, youth, and interculturality.	0	5	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of dialogue roundtables held with decision-makers.	0	2	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of partnerships receiving technical assistance to scale up or replicate their success case.	0	5	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
	Number of marketplace-type events held to facilitate interaction between innovators and potential financiers.	0	1	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	

X. Alignment with the results framework of the Adaptation Fund

Demonstrate how the project / programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund.
Project outcomes should be aligned with the Fund level outcome for innovation (Outcome 8) of the Strategic Results Framework and all others that may apply in the context of the project/programme. Please follow additional guidance provided in Document AFB/PPRC.29/44[45]

Table 9. Alignment with the results framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s)	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Objective 1: Provide financial support to strengthen partnerships between research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and producer organizations to co-design, test, and accelerate innovative adaptation solutions in vulnerable rural areas of LAC	Number of innovation solutions tested and field-validated with vulnerable communities for agricultural adaptation.	**Outcome 8:** Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	**8.1** No. of new, adapted or improved adaptation solutions developed contextually and with the inclusion of the communities most vulnerable to climate change	5,016,000
Objective 2: Strengthen the technical capacities of innovation-developing	Number of institutional actors from the Partnerships that	**Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional	**2.1.** Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of,	709,780

[45] Available at: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AFB.PPRC_.29.44-Guidance-to-IEs-for-inclusion-of-objectives-and-Indicators-for-Innovation.pdf

institutions and community change agents to co-design, implement, validate, and scale adaptation solutions	demonstrate increased knowledge and its application to innovate, co-design, and validate innovative solutions, including the needs of groups most vulnerable to climate change, as well as social, environmental, and gender aspects (disaggregated by gender).	capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	climate-related events from targeted institutions increased	
Objective 3: Promote the systematization and dissemination of knowledge on innovation in climate change adaptation, generating opportunities for scaling and replicating innovative solutions	Number of knowledge products and dissemination spaces with validated evidence of adaptation benefits for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector achieved through innovations accelerated by the Programme.	**Outcome 8:** Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	**8.2** No. of key findings on effective, efficient adaptation practices, products, and technologies generated and/or "learning and sharing" innovation initiatives undertaken	819,680
Total objective level grant amount				**6,545,460**
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Adaptation Fund Output**	**Adaptation Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Outcome 1: Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	Number of innovators supported by the Programme who manage to field-test the innovation, disaggregated by sex and youth. Number of partnerships that carry out at least one iterative learning cycle and complete the evidence log.	**Output 8.** Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated	8.1.1 No. of innovators supported who can introduce an innovation (gender and youth disaggregation) 8.1.2 No. of partnerships leveraged for exchange of goods or services or ideas, consultations and assistance between grantee and stakeholder/s	5,016,000
Outcome 2: Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	Number of institutional actors trained in agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage.	***Output 2.1***: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centres and networks to respond rapidly to extreme weather events	2.1.1. No..of staff trained to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events (by gender)	709,780

Outcome 3: Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	Number of the Programme's dissemination and communication initiatives with a gender-sensitive language management protocol	**Output 8.** Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated	8.2.2 No. of learning and sharing initiatives undertaken, including communication initiatives	819,680
Total outcome level grant amount				**6,545,460**

Y. Detailed budget

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 10. Detailed budget

Component	Output	Activity	Budget account description	Amount USD (year 1)	Amount USD (year 2)	Amount USD (year 3)	Amount USD (year 4)	Total Amount USD	Total Activity	Total Output	Notes and assumptions
Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC	Output 1.1 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes	Activity 1.1.1 Identify and accelerate innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.	Grants	5.000.000				**5.000.000**	5.016.000	5.016.000	At least 20 small innovation grants of up to US$250,000 per grant awarded following a regional call for proposals in Year 1
			Consultant	16.000				**16.000**			Contract of 4 professionals for the constitution of the Evaluation Panel for the first year when launching the call. Each receives USD4,000 per month of work.
Subtotal Component 1				5.016.000	-	-	-	**5.016.000**	5.016.000	5.016.000	
Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects	Output 2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches	Activity 2.1.1 Provide technical assistance to Science–Community Partnerships to strengthen capacities in climate change, innovation, and the management of environmental, social, and gender-related risks.	Consultant	147.840	168.960	168.960	63.360	**549.120**	709.780	709.780	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Program Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to the Components). The consultants will provide technical support on the common needs of technical assistance requested by the beneficiaries, carry out the TDR of the call, dictate the webinars, prepare guides, among other tasks. Availability Percentage for Component 2
			Contractual Services-Companies	10.000	10.000	10.000		**30.000**			Translation Services

			Training and workshops			130.660		**130.660**			20 hydrid sessions: includes local and international travel (as needed) and space and catering for people present. Funds are included for inclusive mechanisms for the indigenous population. Average USD 6,500 per session
Subtotal Component 2				157.840	178.960	309.620	63.360	**709.780**	709.780	709.780	
Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation	Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Activity 3.1.1 Monitor and generate evidence on the innovation process and the results of innovation projects.	Consultant	63.360	42.240	42.240	147.840	**295.680**	694.680	819.680	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Program Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the projects and the program, development of success stories, conducting workshops, among other tasks. Availability percentage for Component 3
			Contractual Services-Companies	100.000				**100.000**			Study of demand in the production sector, survey of the producer.
			Grants				45.000	**45.000**			USD 15,000 award to 3 projects to develop TRL9 (FONTAGRO success story competitions)
			Consultant	3.000	3.000	3.000	5.000	**14.000**			Hire a consultant to support the review of the results reports and provide feedback. Includes prior training on the assembly of the report to develop the baseline
			Travel		120.000	120.000		**240.000**			It is estimated that 20 trips by international and regional experts for 6 people for an average value of $2,000 per person for a visit to the territory and monitoring.
		Activity 3.1.2 Communicate and disseminate results to	Consultant				18.000	**18.000**	125.000		Senior Consultant: Expert in communication to develop the publications of successful cases. With a cost of USD 4,500 per month for 4 months last year

		support the scaling and replication of successful experiences	Consultant				10.000	**10.000**			2-month consultancy to carry out the policy brief at USD 5,000 per month
			Contractual Services-Companies			15.000		**15.000**			Development in a new module or improvement in a digital platform
			Travel	12.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	**72.000**			Trip for FONTAGRO's annual regional workshop first year 6 people, then increases to 10. They have an average total value of $2,000 per person per year.
			Contractual Services-Companies				10.000	**10.000**			Translation Services
Subtotal Component 3				178.360	185.240	200.240	255.840	**819.680**	819.680	819.680	
Total Component				5.352.200	364.200	509.860	319.200	**6.545.460**	6.545.460	6.545.460	
Project Execution Cost (PEC)			Consultant	36.000	36.000	21.600	21.600	**115.200**	727.270	727.270	Program Coordinator, tasks as executive secretary with the Steering Committee, among other tasks. USD 6,500 (100% availability) (23% to PEC)
			Project financial audits	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	**40.000**			Annual Consolidated Financial Audits: USD 10000/year
			Mid-Term Evaluation		40.000			**40.000**			FONTAGRO's specific execution costs
			Project Closing Workshop				20.000	**20.000**			
			Travel Costs	8.583	10.536	8.583	8.582	**36.284**			Costs of travel for Coordinator or other consultants
			Administrative cost	378.475	32.252	38.503	26.557	**475.786**			RCI Administrative and financial costs of IICA implementation (7%)
TOTAL PEC				433.058	128.788	78.686	86.739	**727.270**	727.270	727.270	
Total project (components + PEC)				**5.785.258**	**492.988**	**588.546**	**405.939**	**7.272.730**	**7.272.730**	**7.272.730**	
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)										727.270	
Amount of Financing Requested										**8.000.000**	

Table 11. IE management fee

Activities	Account CAF	Total Budget	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Inception workshop	Workshops / Events	30.000	30.000			
Ensurance compliance with audits requirements at the project level	Administrative costs	40.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Project oversight: Include visits to project sites to verify quality of deliverables, and overseeing independent evaluations	Workshops / Events	187.200	46.800	46.800	46.800	46.800
M&E Specialist (Set up of M&E system, Inception Report, Final Project Report, Annual PPR) Independent Mid Term Review, Independent Final Project Evaluation	Consulting Fees	254.000	58.500	68.500	58.500	68.500
Independent Final Project Evaluation,	Consulting Fees	70.000	0	0	0	70.000
CAF AF Corporate costs* (includes Financial administration of project funds and accounting services)	Consulting Fees	146.070	36.500	36.500	36.500	36.570
Total		727.270	**181.800**	**161.800**	**151.800**	**231.870**

*CAF AF Corporate cost: 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.

Z. Disbursement schedule

Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.

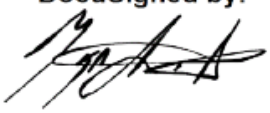
Table 12. Disbursement schedule

Budget type	Year 1 (USD)	Year 2 (USD)	Year 3 (USD)	Year 4 (USD)	Total (USD)
Total project (components + PEC)	5.785.258	492.988	588.546	405.939	7.272.730
Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the IE	231.800	191.800	121.800	181.870	727,270
Total	**6.017.058**	**684.788**	**710.346**	**587.809**	**8.000.000**

PART IV: CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Implementing Entity certification

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

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.
DocuSigned by:  DDB6954B1401403... *Ignacio LORENZO ARANA* *Director for Technical Advisory on Climate and Biodiversity* *Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Department* AF CAF Coordinator
Date: *December 23th, 2025* — Tel. and email:+598.99180424 ilorenzo@caf.com
Project Contact Person: Miguel Alejandro Guzmán Mendoza / Oscar Javier Guevara Arévalo
Tel.: +598 29173211 Email: mguzman@caf.com / oguevara@caf.com

Component	Output	Activity	Budget account description	Amount USD (year 1)
Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC	Output 1.1 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes	Activity 1.1.1 Identify and accelerate innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.	Grants	5,000,000
			Consultant	16,000
Subtotal Component 1				5,016,000
Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects	Output 2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches	Activity 2.1.1 Provide technical assistance to Science–Community Partnerships to strengthen capacities in climate change, innovation, and the management of environmental, social, and gender-related risks.	Consultant	147,840
			Contractual Services-Companies	10,000
			Training and workshops	
Subtotal Component 2				157,840
Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation	Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Activity 3.1.1 Monitor and generate evidence on the innovation process and the results of innovation projects.	Consultant	63,360
			Contractual Services-Companies	100,000
			Grants	
			Consultant	3,000
			Travel	
		Activity 3.1.2 Communicate and	Consultant	
			Consultant	

		disseminate results to support the scaling and replication of successful experiences	Contractual Services-Companies	
			Travel	12,000
			Contractual Services-Companies	
Subtotal Component 3				178,360
Total Component				5,352,200
Project Execution Cost (PEC)			Consultant	36,000
			Project financial audits	10,000
			Mid-Term Evaluation	
			Project Closing Workshop	
			Travel Costs	8,583
			Administrative cost	378,475
TOTAL PEC				433,058
Total project (components + PEC)				**5,785,258**
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				
Amount of Financing Requested				

Amount USD (year 2)	Amount USD (year 3)	Amount USD (year 4)	Total Amount USD	Total Activity	Total Output
			5,000,000		
				5,016,000	5,016,000
			16,000		
-	-	-	**5,016,000**	5,016,000	5,016,000
				709,780	709,780
168,960	168,960	63,360	**549,120**		
10,000	10,000		**30,000**		
	130,660		**130,660**		
178,960	309,620	63,360	**709,780**	709,780	709,780
				694,680	819,680
42,240	42,240	147,840	**295,680**		
			100,000		
		45,000	**45,000**		
3,000	3,000	5,000	**14,000**		
120,000	120,000		**240,000**		
		18,000	**18,000**		
		10,000	**10,000**		

	15,000		**15,000**	125,000	
20,000	20,000	20,000	**72,000**		
		10,000	**10,000**		
185,240	200,240	255,840	**819,680**	819,680	819,680
364,200	509,860	319,200	**6,545,460**	6,545,460	6,545,460
36,000	21,600	21,600	**115,200**		
10,000	10,000	10,000	**40,000**		
40,000			**40,000**	727,270	727,270
		20,000	**20,000**		
10,536	8,583	8,582	**36,284**		
32,252	38,503	26,557	**475,786**		
128,788	78,686	86,739	**727,270**	727,270	727,270
492,988	**588,546**	**405,939**	**7,272,730**	**7,272,730**	**7,272,730**
					727,270
					8,000,000

Notes and assumptions
At least 20 small innovation grants of up to US$250,000 per grant awarded following a regional call for proposals in Year 1
Contract of 4 professionals for the constitution of the Evaluation Panel for the first year when launching the call. Each receives USD4,000 per month of work.
4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Program Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to the Components). The consultants will provide technical support on the common needs of technical assistance requested by the beneficiaries, carry out the TDR of the call, dictate the webinars, prepare guides, among other tasks. Availability Percentage for Component 2
Translation Services
20 hydrid sessions: includes local and international travel (as needed) and space and catering for people present. Funds are included for inclusive mechanisms for the indigenous population. Average USD 6,500 per session
4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Program Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the projects and the program, development of success stories, conducting workshops, among other tasks. Availability percentage for Component 3
Study of demand in the production sector, survey of the producer.
USD 15,000 award to 3 projects to develop TRL9 (FONTAGRO success story competitions)
Hire a consultant to support the review of the results reports and provide feedback. Includes prior training on the assembly of the report to develop the baseline
It is estimated that 20 trips by international and regional experts for 6 people for an average value of $2,000 per person for a visit to the territory and monitoring.
Senior Consultant: Expert in communication to develop the publications of successful cases. With a cost of USD 4,500 per month for 4 months last year
2-month consultancy to carry out the policy brief at USD 5,000 per month

Development in a new module or improvement in a digital platform		
Trip for FONTAGRO's annual regional workshop first year 6 people, then increases to 10. They have an average total value of $2,000 per person per year.		
Translation Services		
Program Coordinator, tasks as executive secretary with the Steering Committee, among other tasks. USD 6,500 (100% availability) (23% to PEC)		
Annual Consolidated Financial Audits: USD 10000/year		
FONTAGRO's specific execution costs		
Costs of travel for Coordinator or other consultants		
RCI Administrative and financial costs of IICA implementation (7%)	**7.00%**	**6,796,944**
	10.00%	**7,272,730**

IE management fee

Activities
Inception workshop
Ensurance compliance with audits requirements at the project level
Project oversight: Include visits to project sites to verify quality of deliverables, and overseeing independent evaluations
M&E Specialist (Set up of M&E system, Inception Report, Final Project Report, Annual PPR) Independent Mid Term Review, Independent Final Project Evaluation
Independent Final Project Evaluation,
CAF AF Corporate costs* (includes Financial administration of project funds and accounting services)
Total

*CAF AF Corporate cost: includes costs related to overall AF CAF related activities, including C
building; activities related to CAF AF project cycles, including proposal originations, CAF AF ov
management systems; overall CAF AF ESS activities; participation in AF activities, including tr

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan

Report Type
Inception Report
Baseline Report
Monitoring of selected projects through the FONTAGRO dashboard
Technical and Financial Progress Reports
Environmental, social and gender safeguards monitoring
Annual analysis and preparation of the Project Performance Report (PPR).

Annual monitoring of environmental, social and gender safeguards and environmental, social and gender management plan.
Follow-up field missions
Mid-term evaluation
Final Project Report
Final external evaluation
Closing workshop and learnings
Financial audits
Total

Account CAF	Total Budget	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Workshops / Events	30,000	30,000			
Administrative costs	40,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Workshops / Events	187,200	66,800	66,800	26,800	26,800
Consulting Fees	254,000	78,500	88,500	38,500	48,500
Consulting Fees	70,000	0	0	0	70,000
Consulting Fees	146,070	46,500	26,500	46,500	26,570
	727,270	**231,800**	**191,800**	**121,800**	**181,870**

CAF AF country engagement and/or capacity
verall administrative staff contracts and information
avel.

Responsible party	Budget (USD)	Calendar	
Program Coordinator	2,000	1 month after completion	(included in the Programme budget)
Program Coordinator M&E Consultant	6,000	2 months after the selection of the Partnerships and Innovation Projects	(included in the Programme budget)
Program Coordinator	15,600	Monthly	(included in the Programme budget)
Program Coordinator	26,000	At the end of each quarter	(included in the Programme budget)
Program Coordinator Environmental, Social Safeguards and Gender Specialist	38,880	At the end of each quarter	(included in the Programme budget)
Program Coordinator CAF	80,000	Annually, 2 months after the end of the implementation calendar year	(included in the IE Fee)

Specialist in environmental and social safeguards, and gender PMU CAF	29,720	Annually for 4 years	(included in the Programme budget) (included in the IE Fee)
CAF PMU	40,000	Annually for 4 years	(included in the IE Fee)
External Consultant IICA	40,000	2 years after the start of the project	(included in the IE Fee)
Program Coordinator CAF	10,000	End of the Project (6 months after the end of the Project)	(included in the IE Fee)
External Consultant CAF	70,000	At project closure (within 9 months of completion)	(included in the IE Fee)
PMU CAF	20,000	At the end of the project	(included in the IE Fee)
CAF - IICA External audit	40,000	At project closure (within 6 months of the close of the fiscal year in which the project ended)	(included in the PEC)
	418,200		

Budget type	Year 1 (USD)	Year 2 (USD)	Year 1 (USD)
Total project (components + PEC)	5,785,258	492,988	588,546
Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the IE	231,800	191,800	121,800
Total	**6,017,058**	**684,788**	**710,346**

Year 2 (USD)	Total (USD)
405,939	7,272,730
181,870	727,270
587,809	**8,000,000**

Annex II – Environmental and Social Management System of the CAF/FONTAGRO-IICA AFCIA Programme

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

The AFCIA programme proposed by CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO seeks to catalyse innovative, scalable and socially just solutions for the agricultural systems most vulnerable to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a centralised, multi-stakeholder implementation modality, the programme will identify, strengthen and accelerate partnerships between science and communities through open and competitive calls for proposals, which will award small grants of up to USD 250,000 to at least 20 innovative projects.

The Programme and its activities underwent a preliminary environmental and social risk assessment in relation to the 15 principles established in the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, as indicated in the table below. The complete risk assessment questionnaire, together with the corresponding mitigation measures, is presented in this annex.

Based on the preliminary risk assessment, a Category B risk level has been identified for the Programme. The identified risk level is mainly due to the fact that most activities cannot be specified or assessed at this stage. Climate innovation initiatives are Unidentified Sub-projects (USPs) and will be identified and selected at the start of the proposed Climate Adaptation Innovation Acceleration Programme. Once the nature of the innovations and their implementation context are known, the risk applicable to each innovation and context can be determined. Therefore, this risk assessment is conducted at the programme level, considering the risks and provisions within the scope of the ESMP. Each selected initiative entering the climate accelerator will conduct its own environmental and social risk assessment and develop its corresponding mitigation measures.

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) together with the Grievance Mechanism included in this annex complies with the requirements of the Adaptation Fund and its procedures. At the programme level, the ESMP provides mechanisms to track identified risks, or any new risks, ensuring that they are adequately assessed, monitored, reported and addressed. The ESMP will be reviewed at a later stage based on the risk assessment of the USPs and will continue to be developed throughout the implementation of the programme.

2. Applicable environmental and social policies and frameworks

Environmental Policy and Legislation Framework in LAC

The geographical scope of the Programme covers Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, as well as the Caribbean States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.
LAC countries share common environmental and social challenges but operate within different legal and policy frameworks. In general, these countries maintain strong constitutional protections for the environment, community land rights and indigenous heritage, often underpinned by traditional governance systems and customary law.

Table 1. Environmental policy and environmental impact assessment frameworks of participating countries.

Country	Environmental Policy Framework	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Law/Framework
Argentina	General Environmental Law (Law 25,675)	EIA regulations by province + national sectoral regulations
Bolivia	Environment Law (Law 1333)	Environmental Prevention and Control Regulations
Brazil	National Environmental Policy (Law 6,938)	CONAMA Resolution 01/1986
Chile	Law 19,300 on the Environment	Environmental Impact Assessment System (SEIA)
Paraguay	Law 294/93 on Environmental Impact Assessment ( )	MADES SGA/EIA Regulations
Uruguay	General Law on Environmental Protection (Law 17,283)	Decree 349/2005 on EIA
Costa Rica	Organic Law on the Environment (Law 7554)	SETENA – General Regulations on EIA
El Salvador	Environment Law	Special Regulations on EIA
Mexico	General Law on Ecological Balance (LGEEPA)	Regulations on EIA
Honduras	General Environmental Law	National EIA System (SINEIA)

Country	Environmental Policy Framework	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Law/Framework
Colombia	Law 99 of 1993	Decree 1076/2015 (environmental licensing)
Ecuador	Organic Environmental Code	Single Environmental Management System (SUMA)
Panama	General Environment Law (Law 41)	Executive Decree 123/2009 on EIA
Peru	General Environment Law	SEIA – National Environmental Impact Assessment System
Venezuela	Organic Environmental Law	EIA Regulations (Decrees 1,257 and 3,435)
Antigua and Barbuda	Environmental Protection and Management Act	Regulations for Environmental Impact Assessment
Bahamas	Environmental Planning and Protection Act	EIA Guidelines (BEST Commission)
Barbados	Environmental Management Act	EIA procedures under Town and Country Planning
Jamaica	Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act	EIA Regulations (NEPA)
Dominican Republic	General Environment Law (Law 64-00)	Environmental Assessment System Regulations
Trinidad and Tobago	Environmental Management Act	EIA Rules (EMA Certificate of Environmental Clearance)

FONTAGRO, the main implementing partner of the Programme and part of IICA (Executing Entity), is an organisation with ties to the agricultural innovation ecosystem in the region for more than 25 years. It is accustomed to implementing projects such as those proposed by the Programme for LAC and will ensure that all activities implemented under the Programme comply with relevant national laws and policies. In addition, the programme will have its own Management Unit (PMU) within the FONTAGRO structure, with an environmental and social specialist dedicated to monitoring and controlling compliance with the environmental and social management plan.

To achieve this compliance, projects must align with legal requirements and approvals at the country level, including EIA regulations, land use protocols, and any designation of protected areas.

CAF Social and Environmental Policy

The Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), in its capacity as a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) accredited to the Adaptation Fund, applies its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) as a guiding framework to ensure that all financed operations are implemented in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, contributing to the sustainable and resilient development of member countries.

The PAS aims to prevent, manage and mitigate the environmental and social risks and impacts of projects, as well as maximise their co-benefits in terms of inclusion, climate resilience and sustainability. It also establishes obligations for early identification, classification and proportional management of risks; compliance with national and international regulations; protection of biodiversity; prevention of impacts on vulnerable communities; promotion of gender equality; guarantee of adequate working conditions; and prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH).

The framework also requires ensuring meaningful stakeholder participation, guaranteeing access to information, and having accessible and effective grievance mechanisms in place. Taken together, this policy guides the implementation of the Programme and ensures its alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.

- **People:** CAF promotes an institutional environment that values diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities, ensuring safe, healthy working conditions free from all forms of abuse, harassment, or exploitation. The well-being of its staff and the communities with which it interacts is a central pillar of its institutional performance.
- **Operations:** CAF is committed to responsible management in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as to protecting the environment in all its operations. The institution works to progressively reduce its environmental and carbon footprint, move towards climate neutrality and strengthen responsible internal practices, including sustainable procurement, low-impact travel and green operating standards.
- **Programmes and projects:** CAF seeks to ensure that the programmes and projects it finances maximise social benefits and minimise environmental impacts. The institution prevents—or, when this

is not possible, mitigates—significant negative impacts, including those related to gender, human rights, indigenous peoples, biodiversity, use of natural resources, or effects on vulnerable communities.

To this end, CAF has a robust Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) in place, which allows it to assess, manage and monitor environmental and social risks and impacts through consistent processes that are proportionate to the level of risk. This system ensures that:

1. All operations are subject to a process of screening and categorisation of environmental and social risk.
2. When risks are identified, a detailed assessment is carried out to determine their magnitude and possible impacts.
3. Mitigation measures and management plans are established and implemented, integrated into the design and execution of the project, with monitoring throughout its life cycle.
4. Staff and implementing partners receive ongoing training in the identification, management and mitigation of environmental and social risks.
5. An approach based on transparency, participation and accountability is maintained, including accessible complaint and grievance mechanisms for affected communities or stakeholders.

The CAF/FONTAGRO AFCIA Programme follows CAF's Environmental and Social Management System and ensures compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund (ESP).

Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

This ESMS is designed in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social framework, as established in its operational policies and guidance.

This comprises the following elements in relation to the Adaptation Fund:

- The Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund, including its 15 Environmental and Social Principles;
- The Gender Policy and Action Plan, which ensure that projects are designed and implemented in a gender-sensitive manner;
- The Adaptation Fund's guidance on key stakeholder engagement, including principles of transparency, participation and inclusion, especially with regard to vulnerable and marginalised populations;
- The commitment to prevent and respond to SEAH in all activities supported by the Adaptation Fund;
- Consideration of the rights and roles of indigenous peoples, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's guidance on respect for traditional knowledge, participation and consultation (CPLI) where applicable;
- The promotion of environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits through funded interventions;
- A systematic approach to addressing gender equality, promoting equal opportunities and ensuring that women and men benefit equitably from Adaptation Fund activities; and
- The promotion of active participation by relevant actors—particularly those most vulnerable to climate change—throughout the project cycle.
    - In its role as Regional Implementing Entity (RIE), CAF will take all necessary measures to ensure that activities are implemented in such a way that:
- Ensure that environmental and social management plans, and all measures to mitigate and manage environmental and social risks and impacts, as well as to improve results, are implemented,

monitored and continuously improved; and

- Ensure that progress and performance are monitored and reported to the Adaptation Fund and its key stakeholders throughout the implementation of activities financed by the Adaptation Fund, in accordance with the monitoring and accountability framework, allowing for verification by the Adaptation Fund or authorised third parties.
    - In addition, CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO shall:
- Confirm that environmental and social risk and impact management measures—including, as appropriate, information disclosure, stakeholder engagement, and grievance mechanisms—are incorporated into agreements, including tender documents and contracts;
- Take all necessary measures to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, including the laws, regulations, and standards of the country where the activities are located and/or the obligations of the country or countries directly applicable to the activities under relevant international treaties or agreements (all of which will be reflected in the agreements with the implementers); and
- Take all necessary measures to ensure that communities affected or potentially affected by the activities (including vulnerable populations, local communities, groups and individuals—women, children, persons with disabilities, persons marginalised because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups and individuals) are adequately consulted in a manner that facilitates:
- the inclusion of local knowledge in project design.
- providing them with opportunities to express their views on risks, impacts and mitigation measures,
- enables accredited entities to consider and respond to their concerns.

Projects supported by AFCIA CAF/FONTAGRO will comply with the ESP of the Adaptation Fund.

3. Programme-Level Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

This section presents an assessment of the anticipated environmental and social impacts associated with the CAF/FONTAGRO-IICA AFCIA at the programme level. Although each innovation project will undergo its own safeguards assessment and classification process, this analysis identifies the potential risks and opportunities related to the facility's design, operating model and characteristics. The purpose is to ensure that risk mitigation measures are integrated from the initial stages and throughout the programme cycle, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.

In line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (ESP), the project recognises that Principles 1 (Compliance with the Law), 4 (Human Rights) and 6 (Fundamental Labour Rights) are always applicable, and monitoring measures have been incorporated accordingly.

Table 2. Environmental and Social Risks

AF Environmental and Social Principle	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks: additional assessment and management required to ensure compliance

Compliance with the law	No additional actions required beyond ongoing risk monitoring	**No risk.** The programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. The AFCIA–CAF evaluation, selection and technical support mechanisms ensure that subprojects comply with national regulatory requirements from design to implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licences, permits and relevant controls. Likewise, the institutional capacity building provided for in the programme contributes to the sound and consistent application of regulations in different national contexts. The programme will carry out periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants must demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks in the project design (Component 1).
Access and Equity	Additional actions are required as provided for in the ESMP and the Gender Action Plan (GAP).	Full analysis available in the GAP (Annex I) **Moderate risk.** Systemic inequalities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making and services for women can create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. Although the programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a special focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that forms of structural exclusion will continue (e.g., women-led organisations). The programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation and outreach actions targeting women's groups. **Mitigation measures:** Apply inclusive selection criteria that weigh the participation of alliances led by women, young people, and representatives of indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require a gender analysis and plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1). An explicit commitment to ensure that information and communication channels are available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with interpretation support provided where appropriate.
Marginalised and Vulnerable Groups	Additional actions are required as set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and continuous risk monitoring (ESMP).	Full analysis available in the GAP (Annex I) **Moderate risk.** Vulnerable groups—including young women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and rural subsistence households—face cumulative disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. The Gender Analysis in Annex I recognises these vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to informal economies, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and the differentiated impacts of extreme weather events. Although the Programme integrates safeguards and attempts to include diverse participants in the design and implementation of innovation projects, the risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion persists if active accompaniment and specific support are not ensured on a sustained basis. **Mitigation measures:** Applicants must demonstrate inclusive engagement, include indicators disaggregated by vulnerability (primarily by gender, indigenous status, and age, but also open to other characteristics), and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation committee, identifying gender inclusion gaps and risks. Activities include care services to reduce barriers and contribute to effective participation (Component 1 and Component 2).
Human Rights	No additional actions are required.	**No risk.** The design adopts a human rights-based and people-centred approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association and equitable access to programme benefits for small producers, rural communities and other groups involved. However, there is a low risk of unequal application of these principles due to socio-economic, cultural and institutional diversity among participating Latin American and Caribbean countries.
Gender equality and women's empowerment women	Additional actions are required as outlined in the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and continuous monitoring of risks	Full analysis available in the GAP (Annex I) **Moderate risk.** Although the programme integrates a gender approach, the varying capacities of the different stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. The risk is mitigated by a structured Action Plan, technical support and specific mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation, but also benefits, leadership and influence. **Mitigation measures:** Evaluate proposals according to criteria that prioritise gender equality and female leadership. Require gender analysis and action plans in all proposals, as well as prioritise initiatives led by women researchers, extension workers, and producers (Component 1). Provide technical assistance in mainstreaming the gender approach and seek the economic empowerment of women (Component 2), monitor gender-specific results, as well as highlight success stories of innovations with an impact on rural women, and disseminate gender-sensitive communication pieces (Component 3).

Fundamental labour rights	No additional actions are required beyond the implementation of the ESMS and continuous risk monitoring.	**No risk.** The programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and fundamental ILO standards. Regular monitoring will verify compliance in the projects. The screening of proposals will ensure that each project complies with current labour regulations and that hired personnel have adequate conditions. It will require compliance with national labour laws in all proposals (Component 1), ensure that personnel contracts comply with national standards (Component 1), and provide mechanisms for complaints and labour dispute resolution through institutional systems.
Indigenous Indigenous	Additional actions are required as set out in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and continuous risk monitoring.	Low risk. The programme recognises the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where numerous indigenous peoples have their own identities, organisational systems, territories and cultural practices. Innovation processes led by Science–Community Partnerships could involve indigenous organisations, communities or territories. Participation by these peoples is voluntary. Indigenous communities that participate will do so through inclusive co-design processes and with explicit consent mechanisms. However, there is a possibility that, in diverse sociocultural contexts, indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during the formulation of innovation subprojects. **Mitigation Measures:** Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1); the technical team will ensure the cultural appropriateness of the support and training processes (Component 2).
Involuntary Resettlement	No additional actions are required.	**No risk.** No risk of involuntary physical or economic displacement of individuals, communities, or agricultural producers is anticipated. Resettlement would result in a project risk classification of A and would therefore be excluded. Exclusion criterion at the evaluation stage (Component 1), Establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3).
Protection of natural habitats Natural	Additional actions are required beyond the implementation of the ESMP and continuous risk monitoring	**Low risk.** No biodiversity losses or introduction of invasive species are anticipated. Subprojects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure that they do not affect sensitive flora, fauna, or ecosystems. **Mitigation measures**: Avoid the introduction of non-native species (Component 1), Incorporate specific measures in the ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2).
Conservation of biological diversity	Additional actions are required as provided for in the ESMP and through continuous risk monitoring	**Low risk.** No biodiversity losses or introduction of invasive species are anticipated. Projects will be aligned with National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans. ESIA/ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, e.g., avoiding facilities that affect bird nesting areas, native flora, wetlands, or mangrove areas. **Mitigation measures:** Avoid the introduction of non-native species (Component 1), Require specific environmental assessments (ESIA/ESMP) for subprojects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
Climate Change	No additional actions are required beyond continuous risk monitoring.	**Risk not significant.** The programme is geared towards climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts, and other risks. No significant increase in GHG emissions or impacts that reduce carbon capture capacity are anticipated. Agroforestry or agricultural subprojects will be small-scale and meet exclusion criteria that prevent significant negative effects.
Pollution prevention and resource efficiency	Additional actions are required as outlined in the ESMS and continuous risk monitoring.	**Moderate risk**. Project construction activities may generate waste, noise, dust, or minor pollution if not properly managed. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient use of resources. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy, and materials. **Mitigation measures:** require, where appropriate, that proposals include simple waste management plans (Component 1); verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
Public health	No additional actions are required beyond continuous risk monitoring.	**No risk.** The programme does not foresee any significant impacts on public health. Projects may generate minimal, localised and reversible effects, in compliance with national public health standards. Similarly, environmental screening will incorporate a rapid health impact checklist (aligned with WHO) to identify whether additional assessments or plans are required.

Physical and cultural heritage	Additional actions are required as provided for in the ESMS and continuous risk monitoring.	**Low risk.** Programme and project activities will not be carried out in areas with physical or cultural heritage, nor will they affect community access to such resources. The design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage or removal of cultural assets recognised at the local, national or international level. The ESS screening will identify the presence of nearby heritage; if it exists, a risk analysis will be carried out and mitigation measures will be defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders. **Mitigation measures:** Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and possible impacts (Component 1), Exclude subprojects that may damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1) exclusion list.
Land and soil conservation	Additional actions are required as outlined in the ESMS and continuous risk monitoring.	**Risk: Moderate.** The programme promotes sustainable approaches to soil conservation in projects involving land interventions. Although there are exclusion criteria for activities involving intensive soil use, there may be minor risks associated with smaller facilities such as building improvements and water tank installation. Therefore, site-specific assessments and periodic monitoring of ESS compliance will be carried out, especially for infrastructure and WASH, considering ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts. **Mitigation measures:** promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during the co-development of proposals (Component 1), apply assessments and monitoring of safeguards in projects at risk of affecting soils (Component 3).

4. Environmental and Social Risk Classification at Programme Level

This section classifies the environmental and social risks associated with each Component and Outcome of the CAF/FONTAGRO AFIA Programme, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund and the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

Table 3. Programme Risk Categorisation by Component

Component/Outcome	Risk categorisation
Component 1: Climate innovation accelerator for the resilience of the LAC agricultural sector **Outcome 1.** Science-Community Partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (*test-learn-develop*) and apply and test innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories.	**Category B – Moderate Risk** This result includes both initial activities—for example, technical assistance, support for proposal design—and the acceleration of projects until their pilot validation of adaptation innovations through small grants (USD 250,000). After verifying general eligibility and environmental and social risks (PMU), projects will be evaluated by an independent panel focused on vulnerable producers. While most interventions are expected to be small or medium-scale and low-impact, some may involve moderate environmental and social risks that are limited in scope and reversible (e.g., minor facilities, use of natural resources, or risks of social exclusion). Projects will submit their risk classification and categorisation in accordance with the ESMS, for which the PMU team will provide the necessary support during formulation and then validate the results. High-risk activities (Category A) are explicitly excluded. It is estimated that most innovation projects will be classified as Low (Category C) and in some cases Moderate (Category B). Both B and C projects must submit an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and a Gender Action Plan (GAP). Some Category B projects may also require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or similar, as required by regulations. Given the inclusion of implementation activities and the potential for moderate risks, outcome 1 is assessed as **Category B – Moderate Risk.**
Component 2. Capacity building for beneficiaries of innovation projects **Outcome 2.** Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test and validate adaptation innovations incorporating gender, environmental and social aspects.	**Category C – Low Risk** The Component includes technical assistance, both in terms of support for proposal design and during the implementation of approved projects. These activities All projects will require ESMPs. Outcome 2 is classified as **Category C – Low Risk.**
Component 3: Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation **Outcome 3:** Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling up and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	**Category C – Low Risk** Outcome 3 includes activities such as project monitoring, systematisation of valuable experiences, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange spaces, communications and dissemination of progress and results, and customisation of the digital platform. These activities are not expected to have direct environmental or social impacts. Potential minor risks (e.g., exclusion of vulnerable groups from meetings) will be addressed through specific outreach actions. Given that no physical interventions are contemplated, Outcome 3 is classified as **Category C – Low Risk.**

While the programme does not present significant or large-scale risks, initial analysis indicates that several Adaptation Fund ESP principles are triggered at **moderate or low levels**—particularly those related to access and equity, inclusion of vulnerable groups, working conditions, biodiversity, and pollution prevention. In response, the programme integrates specific mitigation measures guided by the ESMP and PAG. These include inclusive criteria for information dissemination, assistance for inclusive project formulation and selection, compliance monitoring, transparent beneficiary participation, and safeguards to protect the environment and the well-being of communities. Risk levels will be reviewed periodically during implementation to ensure continued compliance with the ESP and the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy.

5. Programme Environmental and Social Management Approach

The AFCIA–CAF programme's risk management approach is integrated into the mechanism's procedures and is designed to identify, evaluate, monitor and accompany innovative adaptation projects through a system that is proportional and appropriate to the type of intervention.

Given that the calls for proposals are specifically aimed at science-community partnerships, the proposals funded under the programme components are only defined at the submission stage. Each project submitted by these partnerships will undergo a comprehensive environmental and social assessment and risk categorisation process prior to final approval and implementation. This ensures a robust, consistent and risk-sensitive Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) capable of adapting to the diversity of innovations and territorial contexts in which research institutions, extension agencies and community organisations participate.

The assessment and categorisation process will be carried out using standardised tools and guidelines, applying a preliminary analysis tool (Annex II, Appendix I) that will then allow the PMU to assign a risk classification (Category B or C) to each project.

The programme will not finance Category A (high risk) projects. Although the location and specific characteristics of the projects will be defined during each call for proposals, proposals are expected to fall within the scope of low- or moderate-risk interventions typical of science-community partnerships in productive territories.

Projects are expected to involve low to moderate environmental and social risks, generally site-specific, temporary and manageable. To manage these risks in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Management System (ESGP), the following measures have been integrated into the programme design:

- **Initial Assessment and Risk Categorisation**

Each science-community partnership project will present an initial analysis of environmental and social risks, using the screening tool available in the ESMS (Annex I) aligned with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. These will then be classified by the PMU.

Proposals will be classified as Category B (moderate risk) or Category C (minimal or low risk), depending on the level of environmental and social risk.

The programme will not finance Category A (high risk) projects as established by the AF.

The categorisation will determine the level of analysis required:

- **Category B:** will require a detailed ESMP, based on site information and informed by additional studies (e.g., ESIA) where appropriate.
- **Category C:** will require a simplified ESMP, which documents regulatory compliance and establishes basic mitigation measures.

Integration of Safeguards and Support in Design

During the proposal design phase, the PMU's environmental and social safeguards specialist, in line with Adaptation Fund standards, will provide support to the proposing Science-Community Partnership teams to:

- identify social, environmental, and gender risks and opportunities
- formulate mitigation and management measures,
- fully integrate AF safeguard policies,
- and develop ESMPs proportional to the level of risk.

In addition to the aforementioned risk analysis, each project must include an ESMP with:

- mitigation actions,
- institutional responsibilities,
- monitoring indicators.

- **Capacity Building**

The programme includes technical assistance and specific training on Adaptation Fund safeguards, risk management, social inclusion and gender, as well as on the use of risk screening and planning tools.

The PMU will conduct workshops, provide direct support and be available for consultation to ensure that stakeholders understand and apply the AF requirements during the design and implementation of climate innovation projects.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning**

The PMU will conduct environmental and social monitoring as part of the programme's MEL, ensuring alignment with AF requirements.

Environmental and social indicators will be integrated into the performance framework and will include disaggregated information (e.g., by gender, age, ethnicity, and vulnerability).

Monitoring will include:

- random checks,
- consultations with communities,
- documentary review of ESMP compliance
- Possible field visits.

The results will feed into adaptive learning processes, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund guidelines.

- **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**

The programme will have an accessible, transparent mechanism compatible with the Adaptation Fund's Grievance Mechanism, available to all stakeholders: producers, community organisations, scientific institutions and project partners.

The PMU will be responsible for:

- registering and managing complaints,
- providing timely follow-up,
- documenting responses and measures taken,
- and reporting to the AF as appropriate.

6. Risk categorisation

All AFCIA–CAF Programme projects will be subject to environmental and social risk screening, categorisation and management processes, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP) and CAF's Environmental and Social Policy.

Categorisation is based on the nature, scale, location and reversibility of potential environmental and social risks.

The Adaptation Fund's classification system is summarised below:

Risk Category	Description

Category A	Activities with potentially significant impacts on the environment and/or society, whose risks may be diverse, irreversible or unprecedented.
Category B	Activities with moderate risks and adverse impacts, generally limited, localised, reversible and easily mitigated by standard management measures.
Category C	Activities with minimal or no risks and impacts on the environment and/or society.

All projects shall carry out and submit their risk screening analysis (according to Appendix I) so that the PMU can then classify them during the eligibility analysis.

Based on the results:

Category A projects will not be eligible for support under the AFCIA–CAF framework due to the high-risk nature of their impacts.

Category B and C projects will be eligible for the Programme provided they submit:

- An ESMP with the necessary mitigation measures in accordance with the activities, scale and principles of the FA.
- Compliance with national regulatory requirements;
- Alignment of their implementation with the AF's safeguard policies;

The Regional Project Management Unit (PMU) will be the authority responsible for the final classification of risks into A, B or C. All categorisation decisions, forms and risk management instruments will be retained for audit purposes and reported annually to CAF and the FA.

7. Project analysis process

Risk Assessment and Management Process for CAF/FONTAGRO AFCIA Projects

All projects financed under the CAF/FONTAGRO AFCIA will be subject to a standard eligibility and environmental and social assessment process, in line with the 15 Principles of the Adaptation Fund and the environmental and social regulations of their countries.

- **Initial Evaluation and Exclusion List**

Upon receipt of the projects, the PMU will verify:

- Screening of potential risks and impacts in accordance with the 15 principles of the Adaptation Fund's ESP.
- Compliance with national environmental, social and cultural legislation.
- Exclusion List, ensuring that ineligible or Category A risk activities are not supported.

Risk Classification

Each project will receive a preliminary risk classification from the PMU's environmental and social specialists:

- **Category C** – Low or insignificant environmental/social risk → requires a proportional ESMP.
- **Category B** – Moderate environmental/social risk → more detailed ESMP (ESIA according to applicable legislation)
- **Category A** – High environmental/social risk → **not eligible for financing.**

Eligibility

Once the analysis and categorisation have been carried out, the environmental and social specialist of the PMU

observes mainly:

- the risk classification,
- national legal requirements,
- and the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund.

It will issue a **Go/No-Go decision**, and eligible project proposals will be forwarded to the external evaluation panel, which will verify in detail all aspects of interest to the Programme, including the correct application of environmental and social safeguards in the documents submitted.

Project Requirements

Projects must submit:

- Screening for environmental, social, and gender risks (see guidelines in Appendix I)
- ESMP proportional to their characteristics, prepared by the proposing alliance with support from the PMU.
- ESIA or similar study, if necessary (Category B only), prepared by the proposing entity, with the support of the AFCIA–CAF PMU.
- Basic consultations with local stakeholders and affected communities, ensuring social inclusion and respect for local cultural practices.
- Verification of compliance with national regulations, including permits, technical authorisations and applicable environmental standards.
- Simplified monitoring and reporting, focused on verifying compliance and detecting unforeseen impacts.

Integration into Project Agreements and Programme Reports

All financed projects must incorporate the following environmental and social provisions into their implementation agreements:

- Mandatory compliance with the approved ESMP and all associated mitigation measures.
- Access to and compliance with complaint mechanisms at both the community and AFCIA–CAF programme levels.
- Roles, responsibilities, and timelines for environmental and social monitoring and reporting.
- Participation in learning and continuous improvement reviews conducted by the PMU.
- The environmental and social performance of each project will be documented annually in the Project

8. Programme-Level Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan

This table summarises the anticipated environmental and social risks aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP), indicates their level of importance and describes the mitigation actions required at the programme level. Science-Community Partnership projects must develop a similar ESMP appropriate to their activities, aligned with the AFCIA–CAF programme ESMP and risk screening (Appendix I).
The ESMP for each project will detail the specific risks of its activities and each site, the corresponding mitigation measures, those responsible, the ESS monitoring indicators, and the budget allocations. All ESMPs must be submitted before the start of project implementation and will be reflected in FONTAGRO's annual reports to CAF and the FA, ensuring that risk mitigation is monitored throughout the project cycle.

Table 4. Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan at the Programme Level

AS AF Principles	Identified Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
ESP1: Compliance with the Law	The programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. The AFCIA–CAF's evaluation, selection and technical support mechanisms ensure that subprojects comply with national regulatory requirements from design to implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licences, permits and relevant controls. Likewise, the institutional capacity building provided for in the programme contributes to the robust and consistent application of regulations in different national contexts.	**No risk**	The programme will carry out periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants must demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks in the project design (Component 1).
ESP2: Access and Equity	Systemic inequalities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making, and services for women can create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. Although the Programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a special focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that forms of structural exclusion will continue (e.g., women-led organisations).	**Moderate**	Detailed measures available in the PAG The programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation and outreach actions targeting women, young people and indigenous populations. Apply inclusive selection criteria that weigh the participation of partnerships between community and institutional actors in projects focused on women, young people, and indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require a gender analysis and plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1).

ESP3: Marginalised and Vulnerable Groups	Vulnerable groups—including young women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and rural subsistence households—face cumulative disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. The Gender Analysis in Annex I recognises these vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to informal economies, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and the differentiated impacts of extreme weather events. Although the Programme integrates safeguards and attempts to include diverse participants in the design and implementation of innovation projects, the risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion persists if active accompaniment and specific support are not ensured on a sustained basis.	**Moderate**	Detailed measures available in the PAG Applicants must demonstrate inclusive involvement, include indicators disaggregated by vulnerability (mainly by gender, indigenous status and age, but also open to other characteristics) and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation committee, identifying gender gaps and risks to inclusion. Activities include care services to reduce barriers and contribute to effective participation (Component 1 and Component 2).
ESP4: Human Rights Rights	The design adopts a human rights-based and people-centred approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association and equitable access to programme benefits for small producers, rural communities and other groups involved.	**Risk-free**	
ESP5: Gender equality and empowerment of women	Although the programme incorporates a gender perspective, the varying capacities of the different stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. The risk is mitigated by a structured Action Plan, technical support and specific mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation, but also benefits, leadership and influence.	**Moderate**	Detailed measures available in the PAG Evaluate proposals according to criteria that prioritise gender equality, leadership and female participation. Require gender analysis and action plans in all proposals, as well as prioritising initiatives led by women researchers, extension workers and producers, and forums for women, young people and indigenous populations (Component 1). Provide technical assistance in mainstreaming gender and seek to empower women economically (Component 2), monitor gender-specific results, highlight success stories of innovations that impact rural women, and disseminate gender-sensitive communication materials (Component 3).
ESP6: Fundamental labour rights	The programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and fundamental ILO standards. Regular monitoring will verify compliance in projects. The screening of proposals will ensure that each project complies with current labour regulations and that hired personnel have adequate conditions. It will require compliance with national labour laws in all proposals (Component 1), ensure that personnel contracts comply with national standards (Component 1), and provide mechanisms for complaints and labour dispute resolution through institutional systems.	**No risk**	

ESP7: Indigenous Indigenous	The programme recognises the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where numerous indigenous peoples have their own identities, organisational systems, territories and cultural practices. Innovation processes led by Science–Community Alliances could involve indigenous organisations, communities or territories. Participation by indigenous peoples is voluntary. Indigenous communities that participate will do so through inclusive co-design processes and with explicit consent mechanisms. However, there is a possibility that, in diverse sociocultural contexts, indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during the formulation of innovation subprojects.	**Under**	Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1), the technical team will ensure the cultural appropriateness of the support and training processes (Component 2).
ESP8: Resettlement Involuntary	No risk of involuntary physical or economic displacement of people, communities or agricultural producers is anticipated. Resettlement would result in a project risk classification of A and would therefore be excluded. Exclusion criterion at the evaluation stage (Component 1), Establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3)	**No risk**	
ESP9: Protection of natural habitats Natural	No biodiversity loss or introduction of invasive species is anticipated. Subprojects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure that they do not affect sensitive flora, fauna or ecosystems.	**Low risk.**	Avoid the introduction of non-native species (Component 1), Incorporate specific measures in the ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2)
ESP10: Conservation of biological diversity	No biodiversity losses or introduction of invasive species are anticipated. Projects will be aligned with National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans. ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, for example: avoiding facilities that affect bird nesting areas, native flora, wetlands, or mangrove areas.	**Low Risk**	Avoid the introduction of non-native species (Component 1), Require specific environmental assessments (ESMPs) for subprojects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
ESP11: Climate Change	The programme focuses on climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts and other risks. No significant increase in GHG emissions or impacts that reduce carbon capture capacity are expected. Agroforestry or agricultural sub-projects will be small-scale and meet exclusion criteria that prevent significant negative effects.	**Not significant**	

ESP12: Pollution prevention and resource efficiency	Project construction activities can generate waste, noise, dust or minor pollution if not managed properly. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient use of resources. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy and materials.	**Moderate**	Require that, where applicable, proposals include simple waste management plans (Component 1). Verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
ESP13: Public health	The programme does not foresee significant impacts on public health. Projects may generate minimal, localised and reversible effects, complying with national public health standards. Similarly, environmental screening will incorporate a rapid health impact checklist (aligned with WHO) to identify whether additional assessments or plans are required.	**No Risk**	
ESP14: Physical and cultural heritage	Programme and project activities will not be carried out in areas with physical or cultural heritage, nor will they affect community access to such resources. The design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage or removal of cultural assets recognised at local, national or international level. The ESS screening will identify the presence of nearby heritage; if any exists, a risk analysis will be carried out and mitigation measures will be defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders.	**Low**	Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and possible impacts (Component 1), Exclude subprojects that may damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1) exclusion list.
ESP15: Land and soil conservation	The programme promotes sustainable approaches to soil conservation in projects involving land interventions. Although there are exclusion criteria for activities involving intensive soil use, there may be minor risks associated with smaller installations such as building improvements and water tank installation. Therefore, specific site assessments and periodic monitoring of ESS compliance will be carried out, especially for infrastructure and WASH, considering ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts.	**Moderate**	Promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during the co-development of proposals (Component 1), apply assessments and monitoring of safeguards in projects at risk of affecting soils (Component 3).

9. Implementation Arrangements

Roles and Responsibilities

The table below provides an overview of the various actors and their responsibilities related to environmental and social safeguards.

Table 5. Roles and responsibilities for ESMS implementation.

Actor	Roles and Responsibilities
Project Management Unit (PMU) The Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist	• Part of the overall coordination and implementation of the programme. • Leads the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) of the AFCIA–CAF Programme. • Provides technical support to Science-Community Partnerships during the formulation of the environmental and social sections of innovation projects. • Helps applicants identify environmental and social risks and integrate mitigation measures. • Contributes to the development of ESMPs when necessary. • Performs the initial environmental and social classification of projects in accordance with the Programme's ESMS and the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP). • Submits risk classifications to the Programme Assessment Panel and makes go/no-go decisions. • Ensures that mitigation measures and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) are integrated into project design and co-design. • Oversees compliance with the ESMS throughout the implementation of the Programme and ensures that any non-compliance or problems identified are addressed in a timely manner. • Facilitates grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) and systematically monitors cases and their outcomes.
Evaluation Panel	• Reviews proposals and documentation related to the ESMS (e.g., risk assessment, mitigation measures, ESMP). • Provides recommendations to the PMU on technical quality and safeguards. • May request revisions or additional information if compliance with the ESMS is unclear.
Beneficiaries **Science-Community Partnerships**	• Comply with ESMS requirements defined in grant agreements. • Integrate required mitigation measures and ESMPs into the design and implementation of their innovation projects. • Adequately engage Partnership stakeholders and affected communities, including FPIC where necessary. • Report on safeguard measures and submit updates as part of periodic reports.

Actor	Roles and Responsibilities
Adaptation Fund	• Oversees programme compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. • May review the implementation of safeguards through reports, assessments or spot checks.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Each financed project must monitor and report on relevant environmental and social indicators, including compliance with the approved Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), complaint management, consultation and participation activities, and the results of mitigation measures.

These project indicators will be monitored by the environmental and social safeguards specialist of the Programme Management Unit (PMU), with technical supervision by CAF's environmental and social specialists. Documentary verifications and controls will be carried out to validate the information reported and ensure its accuracy and, if necessary, visits to projects will be made.

The monitoring of environmental and social aspects will be carried out on an ongoing basis by the executing entity and implementing entity and will be reported to the Adaptation Fund through annual project implementation reports. These reports shall include a section on the status of implementation of the environmental and social management plan, including the measures necessary to prevent, minimise or mitigate environmental and social risks, and assessments of USP activities, including an analysis of the level of risk, management progress and any changes in the risk profile of the projects.

The reports shall also include, where appropriate, a description of the corrective measures deemed necessary. The mid-term and final evaluation reports shall include an assessment of the project's performance with regard to environmental and social risks and the Grievance Mechanism.

10. Grievance Redress Mechanism

This mechanism will be applied to all project activities without exception and will be disseminated in all instances of communication and engagement with stakeholders, with a special focus on reaching women and vulnerable groups. Likewise, during the preparatory and dissemination activities of the Revolving Fund, it will be socialised and made available to each of the beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries as parties involved in the USP so that they are aware of and understand the functioning of this grievance redress mechanism.

Public communication

The relevant information for filing a complaint or claim about any project that CAF executes under the Adaptation Fund is available to the public on the CAF website: Link: https://www.caf.com/es/temas/a/ambiente-y-cambio-climatico/proyectos/

Within the framework of the principles of accountability and handling of complaints and claims, a complaint and claim management system will be implemented to address those that may arise during the cycle of projects with Green Funds (GEF, Adaptation Fund or Green Climate Fund).

To this end, an ad hoc Complaints and Claims Management Committee will be set up, made up of CAF executives, and an ombudsman will be appointed.

The following communication channels have been established for receiving complaints and claims:

- Email: proyectos_GEF_GCF_AF@caf.com

- Address: CAF Representative Office in the country where the project is being implemented (send in a sealed envelope addressed to the CAF Complaints and Claims Management Committee).

Protection of whistleblowers: In accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Accountability and Complaints and Claims Management, the Chair of the Complaints and Claims Management Committee guarantees the confidentiality of the information provided and the source.

Who can file a complaint?

The following persons or entities may file a complaint or claim in relation to a violation or breach of the Environmental and Social Principles and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund of any project financed with AF resources: (a) Any group of two or more persons with a common interest in the country or countries where the CAF-FA project is located that has suffered or may suffer direct harm due to a CAF-FA project that is likely to be approved or is under implementation. (b) A duly authorised representative of a group may file complaints or claims. (c) A person who is not part of the affected group and who is not locally based may act as a representative of the group only if that person provides evidence that there is no adequate or appropriate capacity in the local community to file a claim. Where applicable, the person must be fluent in the mother tongue of the group members and be able to communicate effectively with the affected group. (d) CAF Board of Directors.

Administrative bodies for processing complaints or claims

The administrative bodies responsible for receiving, responding to and processing complaints and claims are as follows:

a) The Ombudsman (OP) will report to the Chief Executive.
b) The Complaints Processing Committee.

This Committee is composed of:

- Representative of the CAF Country Office;

- Vice-Presidency of Administration - (Talent Management Directorate or personnel and payroll services unit);

- Legal Adviser;

- Development Cooperation Funds Directorate;

- Risk Management Department

a) Conflict Resolution Facilitator: external consultant specialising in conflict resolution appointed by the Complaints and Claims Committee.
b) Expert in verifying compliance with environmental and social policy - Safeguards: an external consultant who is an expert in safeguards appointed by the Complaints and Claims Management Committee.
c) Technical Focal Point and Financial Focal Point CAF - FA
d) FA Project Implementer

Annual external audits will be conducted to assess CAF's compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy for CAF/Adaptation Fund projects.

Roles and Responsibilities

Ombudsman

- Has overall responsibility for the operation of the CAF-FA Project Complaints and Claims Management System.
- Records the complaint or claim.
- Ensures compliance with deadlines or approval of extensions for the complaints and claims system.

- Activates the Complaints Management Committee.
- Contacts the Project Executor
- Contacts the CAF Adaptation Fund Focal Points (Technical Focal Point and Financial Focal Point).
- Receive from the Complaints Processing Committee the eligibility of the complaint to proceed to the Dispute Resolution Phase.
- Coordinate and deliver information and responses to all relevant parties at each stage and process of the CAF-FA Project Complaints and Claims System.

Conflict Resolution Facilitator:

- Reviews the Project Performance Report (PPR).
- Supports the Environmental and Social Policy Compliance Verification Expert in reviewing the CAF-FA Project's non-compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.
- Prepares the Compliance Verification Report for the Complaints and Claims Management Committee.
- Prepares the Problem Resolution Report and includes a Follow-up and Monitoring Plan to be implemented by the same.
- Prepares a Final Closure Report.

Expert in verifying compliance with environmental and social policy:

- Review the Project Performance Report (PPR) with regard to Risk Assessment and Environmental and Social Indicators.
- Review the Environmental and Social Management Plan approved by the Adaptation Fund and its compliance.
- Conduct a compliance review.
- If any non-compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy is detected by the CAF-FA Project, make recommendations for corrective measures.
- Prepares the Compliance Verification Report related to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy for the Conflict Resolution Facilitator.

The Claims Management Committee:

- Reviews the Project Performance Report (PPR) in relation to Risk Assessment and Indicators.
- Conducts an initial assessment of the complaint or claim received and confirms whether it is appropriate to proceed to the Dispute Resolution Phase.
- Decides whether or not to proceed to the Dispute Resolution Phase.
- Decides whether or not to accept the conclusions and recommendations presented in the Compliance Verification Report.
- Reviews and approves the Compliance Verification Report submitted by the Conflict Resolution Facilitator.
- Communicates the Compliance Verification Report and the decision on the conclusions and recommendations to the PO.
- Approves the Problem Resolution Report and the Monitoring and Supervision Plan presented by the Conflict Resolution Facilitator.
- Approves the Implementation Plan submitted by the Implementer.
- Reviews the Monitoring and Supervision Plan reports.
- Approves the final closure report.

CAF-FA Technical Focal Point:

- Handles all communication between CAF and the Adaptation Fund on technical issues related to projects/programmes.

- Reviews the Project Performance Report (PPR) related to Risk Assessment and Indicators.
- Review the Compliance Verification Report related to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy.
- Receives, through the Ombudsman, the reports and decisions of the Claims Management Committee, the Conflict Resolution Facilitator and the Expert in Verification of Compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy.
- Advises the Complaints Management Committee on all matters related to the Adaptation Fund.

CAF-FA Financial Focal Point:

- Handles all communications between CAF and the Adaptation Fund on financial matters relating to projects/programmes.
- Reviews the Project Performance Report (PPR) in relation to Risk Assessment and Indicators.
- Reviews the Compliance Verification Report related to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy.
- Receives reports and decisions made by the Claims Management Committee, the Conflict Resolution Facilitator and the Expert in Verification of Compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy through the Ombudsman.
- Advise the Claims Management Committee on all matters related to the Adaptation Fund.

AF Project Implementer:

- Provides all information requested by the Complaints Management Committee, the Conflict Resolution Facilitator and the Expert on Verification of Compliance with Environmental and Social Policies for review and verification in relation to the complaint or claim received.
- Participates in the Conflict Resolution Phase.
- Develops and implements the Implementation Plan.

Phases of the claim's mechanism

Phase 1. Receipt of a complaint or claim

At any time during the start-up and execution of the project. Depending on the project and until the final verification of its correct functioning.	**Step 1. Receipt of the Complaint or Claim** Individuals or groups who believe they have been or may be affected by the adverse environmental and social impacts of a project in which CAF acts as an FA agency should consider filing a complaint or claim: - The Complaint or Claim may refer to any stage of the project, whether in its design or implementation. - The complaint or claim may be received by email, physical letter delivered to one of CAF's Representative Offices, or under the system established during the formulation of the Full Proposal. - In remote areas where access to telecommunications or electronic media is restricted, CAF, in coordination with the Project Executor during the formulation of the Full Proposal, may receive the complaint or claim by email, physical letter, or through any of CAF's Representative Offices. - The Project during the formulation of the Complete Proposal and effective alternative mechanisms will be adopted so that the persons involved can submit their Complaints and Claims. Such effective alternative mechanisms shall consider adequate translation and written record in case the native language of the affected group is different from Spanish, Portuguese or English.
Within 20 working days of receipt of the complaint or claim (maximum of 35 working days in justified special cases)	**Step 2. Registration and acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint or claim** - The PO acknowledges receipt of the Complaint or Claim to the complainants. - The PO verifies the information provided by the claimants and the request (resolution of the problem or review of compliance). - The PO registers the claim on the CAF-FA Projects web portal. - The PO may defer the complaint or claim until sufficient information and documentation are submitted. - The PO guarantees the confidentiality of the complainants' identity upon request. - The PO activates the Complaints Handling Committee.
3 working days after the publication of the complaint	**Step 3. Transmission of the complaint or claim** The PO activates the Complaints Handling Committee by forwarding the complaint or

or claim on the CAF-FA web portal.	claim to: - Complaints and Claims Processing Committee - other appropriate CAF departments or area offices (if the nature of the complaint or claim falls within the scope of application).
(3) working days after the new submission of the complaint or claim	Step 4. Updating the complainant - The PO informs complainants about the process CAF will follow with the complaint or claim and their contact information.

Phase 2. Conflict resolution

Within 10 working days after receipt of the complaint or claim (maximum of 20 working days in justified special cases)	**Step 1 Determine admissibility** The OP submits the information to the Complaints Handling Committee. - The Complaints Handling Committee reviews the information and decides which function to proceed with (compliance review or conflict/problem resolution function). The Complaints Handling Committee submits the information to the conflict resolution facilitator.
Within 20 working days of receiving the complaint or claim (maximum of 35 working days in justified special cases)	**Step 2. Evaluation of the complaint or claim** - The Conflict Resolution Facilitator shall prepare the Compliance Verification Report and the Follow-up and Monitoring Plan in accordance with the verification of the Environmental and Social Policy Compliance Verification Expert in accordance with the PPR and the Environmental and Social Management Plan approved in the Full Proposal by the Adaptation Fund. - The Conflict Resolution Facilitator shall submit the Compliance Verification Report and the Monitoring and Surveillance Plan to the Claims Management Committee. - The Claims Management Committee communicates the Compliance Verification Report and the decision on the conclusions and recommendations to the OP.
The time required depends on the specific conditions, context, nature and complexity of the issues.	**Step 3. Conflict resolution** - The conflict resolution facilitator coordinates with stakeholders on their participation in problem-solving activities through (a) consultative dialogue (b) information exchange (c) research (d) a mediation mechanism (e) other problem-solving methods. - The Conflict Management Facilitator and the parties involved (including the Executor) agree on corrective measures. - The Conflict Management Facilitator submits the Problem Resolution Report to the Claims Management Committee with a copy to the OP. - The Implementer submits the Implementation Plan. - The Environmental and Social Policy Compliance Verification Expert shall participate in Step 3 of Conflict Resolution. - The Complaints Handling Committee approves the Problem Resolution Report and the Monitoring and Supervision Plan presented by the Conflict Resolution Facilitator. - The Complaints Handling Committee approves the Implementation Plan submitted by the Implementer. - The Complaints Handling Committee reviews the Monitoring and Supervision Plan reports. - If no agreement is reached, the problem resolution process ends.
The time required depends on the specific conditions of the Plan and the Project.	**Step 4. Implementation and supervision**. - The Implementation Plan is executed by the Implementer, while the Conflict Management Facilitator follows the Monitoring Plan and its reporting schedule.
Within 10 working days of the completion of the Implementation Plan (maximum of 20 working days in justified special cases)	**Step 5. End of the problem-solving process**. - Once the Implementation Plan and Monitoring Plan have been completed, the Conflict Management Facilitator completes a Final Closing Report. - The Claims Management Committee approves the Final Closing Report. - The PO approves the Final Closure Report. - The PO sends the Final Closing Report to the interested parties.

Sustainability of the complaints' mechanism

The proposal includes training activities for key government technical staff and decision-makers, as well as for local communities, the development of partnerships and agreements with relevant government institutions for the maintenance of investments, supporting local ownership of activities.

As part of the planned awareness-raising and training activities, the project envisages the signing of agreements to ensure the social and environmental sustainability of the project results. During project implementation,

support will be provided for the incorporation of risk management activities into the overall climate risk management process, thus ensuring longer-term environmental and social results.

With regard to the sustainability of the complaint mechanism once the project is completed, it is proposed to work with the three regional corporations during project implementation to streamline their processes and ensure the incorporation of the project's complaint mechanism into existing government structures. Several agencies already administer this type of mechanism, as described below.

The country has an environmental complaints mechanism in the National Directorate for Environmental Quality and Assessment of the Ministry of the Environment, which can be accessed online, by telephone or in person at the Ministry of the Environment's reception desk. The National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman's Office (INDDHH) receive complaints about possible violations of human rights recognised in national or international standards. These must originate exclusively from the responsibility of State institutions or agencies, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security: For complaints related to the workplace, such as violations of labour rights or unsafe working conditions.

Based on the implementation of training activities on environmental and social safeguards and grievance mechanisms, the project will collaborate with national and local institutions to integrate specific issues of the AFCIA Program and ensure that the grievance mechanism is operational in the post-project phase under the responsibility of the Government.

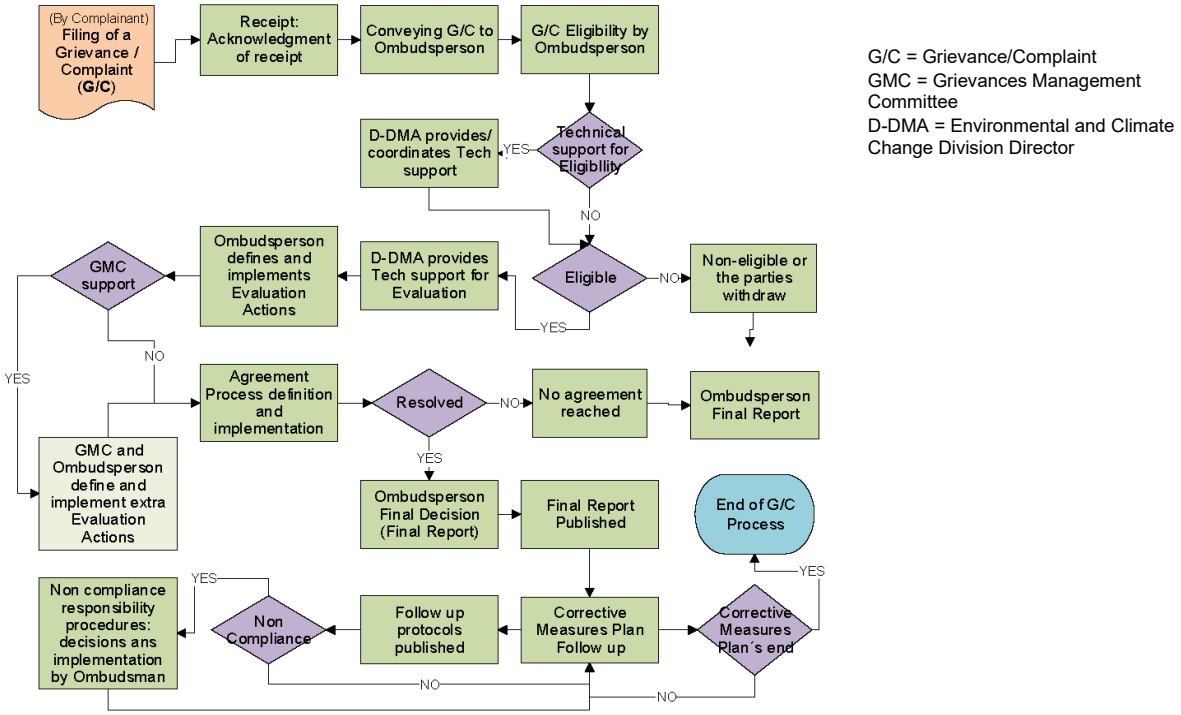


Figure 1. Grievances and complaints reception mechanism

11. Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH)

In all situations involving allegations related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and/or Harassment (SEAH), the applicable grievance mechanism will adopt a survivor-centred approach. This shall apply to all complaint mechanisms managed by the Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) – CAF – and the Programme Management Unit (PMU) of AFCIA at FONTAGRO. The following principles shall be applied systematically at all stages and in all actions:

- The rights, needs and wishes of the survivor are the highest priority for all parties involved in the Programme.
- The survivor has the right to:
  - be treated with dignity and respect, without blame;
  - choose the course of action to address the violence, avoiding situations that reinforce feelings of helplessness;
  - privacy and confidentiality, avoiding any exposure;
  - non-discrimination on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation or any other condition;
  - receiving complete information to make your own decisions, without impositions;
  - having an interpreter in the language in which they feel most comfortable, if further details are required.
- The survivor's safety must be guaranteed at all times. Risks will be identified and measures will be taken to prevent further harm, including ensuring that the alleged perpetrator has no contact with the survivor.
- If the survivor is a member of the Programme staff, reasonable adjustments may be made to their schedule and work environment.
- All actions should reflect the survivor's decisions.
- All case information must be kept confidential and identities protected.
- Only those involved in responding to the report may access case-level information, exclusively for a clear purpose and with the survivor's consent.
- No identity shall be disclosed without explicit written consent.
- The survivor must give informed consent to proceed with each stage of the complaint process and may withdraw consent at any time.

In the event of a report of SEAH or GBV, CAF, in its capacity as Regional Implementing Entity (RIE), will fulfil its responsibility to protect the survivor in accordance with its internal policies and the requirements of the Adaptation Fund.

This includes, where appropriate, facilitating access to:

- medical and health services (including psychosocial support),
- legal advice,
- community-defined protection measures,
- and reintegration processes.

These mechanisms will be implemented in line with current national protocols and operating procedures for GBV service providers (care centres, police, health services), as well as service delivery protocols to respond appropriately to cases of gender-based violence.

12. Appendices

Appendix I – Preliminary Screening of Social and Environmental Risks of Projects

FA Environmental and Social Principles	Questions	Yes/No	Comments
1. Compliance with the Law	1.1. Has the project identified all specific national and international laws, regulations, standards, procedures and permits applicable to any of its activities?		In comments, it is useful to include: - Estimated risk level: High/Medium/Low - Which project activity generates the risk and what general measures will be implemented to avoid it. - When we do not have all the information, it is important to note that, due to insufficient information, further investigation will be required in a subsequent stage or specific study.
	1.2. Does the project demonstrate any non-compliance with applicable national legislation?		
	1.3. Has the project identified activities that may require prior permits (such as planning permits, environmental permits, construction permits, water extraction permits, emissions and use or production or storage of harmful substances)?		
	1.4. Has the project identified environmental and social safeguard requirements other than those of the FA (e.g. national or co-financing entities)?		
2. Access and Equity	2.1 Has the project identified benefits and their geographical area of impact?		
	2.2 Has the project identified any marginalised or vulnerable groups among the potential beneficiaries of the project?		
	2.3 Has the project identified the existing risk to access to the essential services and rights indicated in the principle?		
	2.4 Has the project described the mechanism for allocating and distributing the benefits of the project, and how this process ensures fair and equitable access to benefits?		
	2.5 Has the project developed consultations with stakeholders and local authorities?		
	2.6 Has the project presented a mechanism to ensure the participation of communities, marginalised and vulnerable groups, stakeholders and local authorities?		
3. Marginalised and Vulnerable Groups	3.1 Have marginalised or vulnerable groups been identified in the project's area of influence, including, but not limited to, children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous peoples, tribal groups, displaced persons, refugees, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV/AIDS?		
	3.2 Has the project described the characteristics of marginalised or vulnerable groups, identifying their particular vulnerabilities that could make them disproportionately vulnerable to negative environmental or social impacts caused by the implementation of project activities?		
4. Human Rights	4.1 Have the host countries been cited in any Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, being on the list of thematic or country mandates?		
	4.2 Is there a risk that rights holders will not have the capacity to claim their rights?		
	4.3 Has the project addressed human rights issues during consultations with stakeholders during project formulation?		

	4.4 Has the project included the findings of consultations on human rights issues in the project document?		
5. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	5.1 Has the project identified activities that are known to exclude or hinder a gender group based on legal, regulatory, or customary grounds?		
	5.2 Has the project conducted a gender analysis of the supported area, describing the current situation regarding the allocation of roles and responsibilities in the area?		
	5.3 Has the project identified elements that maintain or exacerbate gender inequality or the consequences of gender inequality?		
	5.4 Has the project identified particular vulnerabilities of men and women that could make them disproportionately vulnerable to negative environmental or social impacts caused by the project's results/activities?		
6. Fundamental Labour Rights	6.1 Has the project determined whether the host country has ratified the eight fundamental ILO conventions?		
	6.2 Has the project reviewed the ILO's latest assessments of the implementation of standards in the country?		
	6.3 Has the project identified how ILO fundamental labour standards are incorporated into the design and implementation of project outcomes/activities?		
	6.4 Has the project described the common labour arrangements in the sector(s) in which the project will operate, paying particular attention to all forms of child labour and forced labour?		
7. Indigenous Peoples	7.1 Has the project identified whether indigenous peoples are present in the area of influence?		
	7.2 Has the project quantified the identified groups of indigenous peoples?		
	7.3 Has the project determined whether provisions exist for a realistic and effective Free, Prior and Informed Consent process, granting a community the right to grant or withhold consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they own, occupy or otherwise use?		
	7.4 Has the project provided a summary of reports, specific cases, or complaints that have been filed regarding the rights of indigenous peoples by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and that are relevant to the project?		
8. Involuntary Resettlement	8.1 Has the project determined whether the resettlement is voluntary or involuntary?		
	8.2 Has the project identified stakeholders whose livelihoods may be affected, either directly or indirectly?		
	8.3 Has the project identified stakeholders whose assets or access to them may be affected, directly or indirectly, and whether this may lead to resettlement and its consequences, including compensation, indemnification, etc.?		
9. Protection of Natural Habitats	9.1 Has the project identified all critical natural habitats in the region that may be affected?		

	The area considered must be large enough to be credible and chosen based on the agent generating the impact (e.g., noise) and an assessment of its propagation capacity. The habitats to be considered include all those recognised as critical in any way, whether legally (through protection), scientifically or socially.		
	9.2 Has the project identified, for each critical natural habitat, the mechanism by which it is particularly vulnerable?		
	9.3 Has the project considered all the activities to identify actual risks for each of the natural habitats identified, taking into account the specific characteristics of the activity (location, dimension, duration, etc.) and the vulnerability mechanism(s) of each habitat identified?		
10. Conservation of Biological Diversity	10.1 Has the project identified all elements of interest for biodiversity in the region that may be affected?		
	The area considered should be large enough to be credible and should be chosen based on the agent causing the impact and an assessment of its potential to spread. When identifying elements of interest for biodiversity, it is important not to limit oneself to the species level, but to include all elements of interest for biodiversity, including landscapes, ecosystem processes, habitats and hydrological cycles, erosion and sedimentation processes, and interactions between taxa. Include all elements that enjoy local or international protection.		
	10.2 For each identified biodiversity element, has the project identified the mechanism by which it is particularly vulnerable? (Changes in the flow regime or water quality of a seasonal wetland or disruption of migratory routes).		
	10.3 Has the project identified the possibility of intentionally or accidentally introducing known invasive species?		
	10.4 Has the project identified the use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology?		
11. Climate Change	11.1 Has the project determined whether it belongs to a sector mentioned in the guidance document for which a calculation of greenhouse gas emissions is required?		
	Has the project carried out a qualitative identification of the risk of any impact on carbon capture and sequestration capacity?		
12. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	12.1 Has the project identified activities with avoidable waste or pollution production?		
	12.2 Has the project determined the nature and quantity of waste, as well as that of any potential pollutants that may be produced?		
	12.3 Has the project determined whether the concept of minimising waste and pollutant production has been applied in the design phase and whether this will be effective during implementation?		
13. Human Health	13.1 Has the project identified, using an appropriate health impact screening tool (checklist), any potentially significant negative impacts on public health?		

14. Physical and Cultural Heritage	14.1 Has the project determined whether the host country has ratified the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage?		
	14.2 Has the project determined the national and local legal and regulatory framework for the recognition and protection of physical and cultural heritage?		
	14.3 Has the project described all elements of cultural heritage in the area of influence, their location and their vulnerabilities?		
	The area considered must be large enough to be credible and chosen based on the agent generating the impact (e.g., vibrations, landscape elements) and an assessment of its propagation capacity. Include all elements that enjoy local or international protection.		
	14.4 Has the project determined whether any of the heritage elements included in the List of World Heritage in Danger are located within the area of influence?		
	14.5 Has the project considered all activities to identify the actual risks to each of the identified heritage elements, taking into account the specific characteristics of the activity (location, size, duration, etc.) and the vulnerability mechanism(s) of each identified heritage element?		
15. Land and soil conservation	15.1 Has the project identified the presence of fragile soils in the area of influence?		
	15.2 Has the project identified activities that could cause the loss of soils that would otherwise not be fragile?		
	15.3 Has the project identified productive land and/or land that provides valuable ecosystem services within the area of influence?		
	15.4 Has the project identified activities that may lead to land degradation?		

Appendix II – Exclusion List

There are several activities that the CAF/FONTAGRO AFCIA Programme will not finance. A simple set of exclusion criteria will be implemented to ensure that all programme activities support innovation projects in adaptation that are aligned with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund and CAF. All **Category A** proposals—defined as those with potentially significant, diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented environmental or social impacts—will be considered ineligible under the Programme.

The AFCIA CAF/FONTAGRO Programme will not be used to directly or indirectly finance activities that:

- Production or marketing of any product or activity considered illegal under the laws of the host country, or international regulations, conventions and agreements, or subject to international prohibitions, such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone-depleting substances, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), wildlife or products regulated by CITES.
- Production or trade in arms and ammunition.
- Production or marketing of tobacco.
- Gambling, casinos and equivalent companies.
- Production or marketing of radioactive materials. This does not apply to the purchase of medical equipment, quality control (measurement) equipment, and any equipment where CAF considers the radioactive source to be trivial and/or adequately protected.
- Production or marketing of asbestos-free fibres. This does not apply to the purchase and use of asbestos cement sheets, where the asbestos content is less than 20%.
- Purchase and use of PCB compounds.
- Production of pharmaceutical products that are being phased out of the market or that have been banned internationally in accordance with the United Nations publication on banned products: consolidated list of products whose consumption or sale has been banned, withdrawn, subject to strict restrictions or not approved by governments (latest version from 2001 in English: www.who.int/medicines/library/qsm/edm-qsm-2001-3/edm-qsm-2001_3.pdf).
- Pesticides or herbicides that are being phased out of the market or have been banned internationally in accordance with the Rotterdam Convention (www.pic.int) and the Stockholm Convention (www.pops.int).
- Production of substances harmful to the ozone layer that are being phased out of the international market. These substances, known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS), are regulated by the Montreal Protocol. There is a list of these substances and the target dates for their reduction and withdrawal from the market. Some of the chemical compounds regulated by the Montreal Protocol are aerosols, refrigerants, foaming agents, solvents and fire protection agents. More information is available at www.unep.org/ozone/montreal.shtml.
- Production or use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- Fishing in marine environments with nets longer than 2.5 kilometres.
- Commercial logging operations that harvest primary material from primary tropical forests.
- Production or marketing of timber or other forest products that do not come from sustainably managed forests.
- Production, trade, storage or transport of large volumes of hazardous chemicals, or the use of hazardous chemicals on a commercial scale.
- Production or activities that affect the ownership of territory or land, or that are claimed for allocation, by indigenous peoples without the documented free, prior and informed consent of those peoples.
- Operations in protected areas[1] with special legislation, when the operation has the potential to

[1] Also within designated areas in each location, including, among others, World Heritage Sites (as defined in the World Heritage Convention: http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/main.htm), the United Nations list of protected parks and reserves, wetlands declared to be of international

jeopardise the objective of creating/establishing the protected area.

- [2]CAF does not finance operations to borrowers or executing agencies that carry out production or activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour and/or child labour.

In addition to the CAF exclusion list mentioned above, the programme will further exclude investments that:

- Are located within protected areas and/or their buffer zones;
- Are classified as high-risk, "Category A" investments;
- Involve involuntary resettlement.

importance (Ramsar sites, as defined in the Ramsar Convention: www.ramsar.org), or specific areas defined by the IUCN (e.g., natural parks, wildlife reserves, natural monuments, among others: www.iucn.org).

[2] Forced labour means any work or service, performed involuntarily, that is obtained from an individual under threat of force or punishment.

Annex III. GENDER ASSESSMENT

Contenido

1. Introduction

This document, "Gender Assessment," aims to provide a diagnostic overview of the general situation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC with regard to gender equality policies and actions, based primarily on the commitments undertaken by countries in the region, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, the 2030 Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Likewise, this assessment will serve as a general framework for addressing gender issues in the implementation of the project "Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean." This tool seeks to contribute to the identification of gender-related gaps and relevant policies, as well as issues related to diversity and vulnerable groups, and to identify opportunities to strengthen gender equality within the project.

The information gathered through the Gender Assessment will be considered throughout all stages of the project cycle, including design, formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

It is important to highlight that the gender approach incorporates an intersectional perspective. This perspective makes visible the multiple systems of domination and, therefore, the overlapping forms of oppression that individuals may experience. Accordingly, it is neither sufficient nor effective to incorporate a gender perspective in isolation from ethnic, class, or other social differences; rather, it is necessary to integrate and deepen these perspectives to understand the specific impacts these intersecting forms of oppression have on people's lives. This simultaneity and integrality represent a significant challenge for public policies that seek to recognize this complex web of identities, which are often contradictory. One of the main challenges lies in the limited availability of disaggregated data and the need for technical capacities to analyze multiple dimensions of inequality. However, the benefits are substantial, as intersectionality enables the design of more effective, equitable, and culturally relevant adaptation interventions, improves resource targeting, and ensures that climate measures respond to the diverse realities of women and historically marginalized groups. This perspective strengthens the effectiveness, sustainability, and fairness of climate actions[1].

Based on the gender assessment, a Gender Action Plan (GAP) has been developed, outlining strategic lines to ensure equality between women and men in terms of the distribution and control of resources, access to economic and social opportunities, and full participation in decision-making spaces. The project-specific GAP is a key tool to ensure that the integration of a gender perspective is clearly reflected in both the design and implementation of the project.

2. Methodology

In order for the project to incorporate a gender perspective and an intersectional approach from the preparation stage through the evaluation and monitoring phases, it is necessary to assess the realities of women and vulnerable groups in order to understand the cultural and social contexts that have created any identified inequalities or barriers. Planning must be intentional and adopt a strategic approach aimed at addressing existing inequalities and improving people's living conditions.

In this regard, a mixed-methods data collection methodology was defined to enable comprehensive information gathering from multiple sources for an evidence-based gender assessment. The assessment focused on two main data sources: (i) research and documentary analysis of available secondary sources, and (ii) stakeholder consultation through semi-structured interviews.

[1] IUCN & UN Women (2021). Gender and national climate planning: gender integration in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions. Available at: https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2021-043-En.pdf

2.1. Research and documentary análisis of secondary sources

The first method applied—research and documentary analysis of secondary sources—involved the search and review of regulatory frameworks, policies, reports, working papers, studies, and relevant research at both governmental and institutional levels, at the regional and national scales. This process aimed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the critical gender-related contextual factors in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The following is a list of key documents and literature reviewed as part of the documentary analysis process:

- *Climate Change and Its Impacts in the Greater Caribbean*, Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez, CLACSO, 2020.
- *Care and the Business Sector: Opportunities for Development with Equality in Latin America*, UN Women, 2024.
- *The Power to Undertake: Women Transforming the Region with Courage and Vision*, UNDP LAC, 2025.
- *Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change: Status and Perspectives from Institutional Frameworks in Latin America*, IICA, 2016.
- *Multidimensional Poverty Index*, UNDP, 2023.
- *Trends in Maternal Mortality*, PAHO/WHO, 2023.
- *Evaluation Report on Gender Equality Mainstreaming in Technical Cooperation in Health at the Pan American Health Organization in the Americas 2005–2023*, PAHO, 2024.
- *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2024: Challenges of Non-Contributory Social Protection for Advancing Inclusive Social Development*, ECLAC, 2024.
- *Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean: Trapped in Inequality*, UNDP, 2021.
- *Challenges for Gender Equality in Latin America*, Working Paper, CAF, 2022.
- *Pension and Health Systems in Latin America: Challenges of Ageing, Technological Change, and Informality*, CAF/RED, 2020.
- *Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Necessary Condition for Progress in Gender Equality*, UN Women, 2024.
- *Labour Panorama 2024: Latin America and the Caribbean*, ILO, 2024.
- *This Is How Latin American Women Came to Be More Educated than Men*, World Economic Forum, 2023.
- *Unlocking Potential: Real Impact of Virtual Training for Women Entrepreneurs in LAC – Lessons Learned from the WE3A Project: Strengthening Women Entrepreneurs in Value Chains*, IDB Lab, 2025.
- *WeClim Equally: Gender-Smart Handbook for Climate Entrepreneurs*, EIT Climate-KIC & Bopinc, 2024.
- *Rural Youth: Leading the Present of Agriculture*, IICA, 2024.

3. Legal and regulatory framework on Gender and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

As noted in the proposal, this Project seeks to mainstream a gender perspective throughout its implementation process. It will also incorporate measures aimed at promoting the inclusion of other vulnerable groups identified during the diagnostic and formulation stages.

3.1 Relevant International Protocols and Frameworks

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the main intergovernmental forum on women's rights and gender equality in the region.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which defines gender equality and establishes principles to achieve it. It recognizes women's rights and sets out a programme of action to guarantee them.
- Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995). In response to the limited impact of policies and programmes focused on the integration of women into development strategies (Women in Development approach), two complementary strategies were promoted to advance the transformation of unequal power relations between women and men and achieve gender equality: gender mainstreaming and empowerment.
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women
- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery
- Convention on the Nationality of Married Women
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the only legally binding international agreement addressing land degradation. It promotes the equal participation of women and men and highlights the important role played by women in regions affected by desertification or drought, particularly in rural areas of developing countries.
- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic with Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
- ILO Convention No. 100 on Equal Remuneration (1951)
- ILO Convention No. 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)
- ILO Convention No. 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities (1981)
- ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries
- Constituent Agreement of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ILO Convention No. 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
- ILO Convention No. 183 on Maternity Protection (2000)
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

- Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women
- Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights to Women
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("Protocol of San Salvador")
- Inter-American Convention on Support Obligations
- Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women ("Convention of Belém do Pará")
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly
- Agenda 21 (1992), which calls for the adoption of governmental policies, guidelines, and national plans to ensure equity across all areas of society, including the key participation of women in decision-making and environmental management.
- Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognizes the decisive role played by women in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirms the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy formulation and implementation related to biodiversity conservation.
- Hyogo Framework for Action, which states that "a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans, and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, education, and training," and highlights the need to "develop people-centered early warning systems, particularly with a gender focus."
- Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has a highly advanced gender equality agenda from a normative perspective, with over 45 years of experience in building a Regional Gender Agenda, consolidated in the *Montevideo Strategy*[2]. However, despite the normative and institutional advances achieved over recent decades, profound structural inequalities between women and men persist across the region.

As noted in the document "Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Necessary Condition for Progress in Gender Equality", disparities are manifested across multiple domains, including employment, income, health, care work, access to land and resources, political participation, and gender-based violence, among others. The document underscores that the persistence of sexism, gender stereotypes, institutional discrimination, and socio-reproductive segmentation continues to reproduce inequality, even in contexts where laws formally recognize equality.

Moreover, many women experience situations of intersectional vulnerability, as gender-based inequalities intersect with poverty, rurality, ethnic identity, labour informality, or social exclusion, thereby deepening their disadvantages. Inequalities are therefore not merely a matter of "opportunity gaps," but rather reflect an unjust distribution of care roles—unpaid domestic and care work—that disproportionately falls on women, limiting their access to paid employment, training opportunities, public participation, and autonomy.

Although progress has been made in legislation and, in some contexts, in formal parity and social awareness, advances remain uneven and many women continue to be "trapped" in structural forms of inequality.

[2] The Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Framework of Sustainable Development towards 2030 was approved by the Member States of ECLAC at the XIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Strategy identifies four structural bottlenecks: socioeconomic inequality and poverty; discriminatory and violent cultural patterns; the sexual division of labor and the unjust organization of care; and the concentration of power. Available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/41011-estrategia-montevideo-la-implementacion-la-agenda-regional-genero-marco#:~:text=La%20Estrategia%20de%20Montevideo%20tiene,evaluaci%C3%B3n%20y%20rendici%C3%B3n%20de%20cuentas.

Consequently, there remains a pressing need to advance comprehensive policies, allocate adequate resources, strengthen institutional frameworks, and promote deep cultural change.

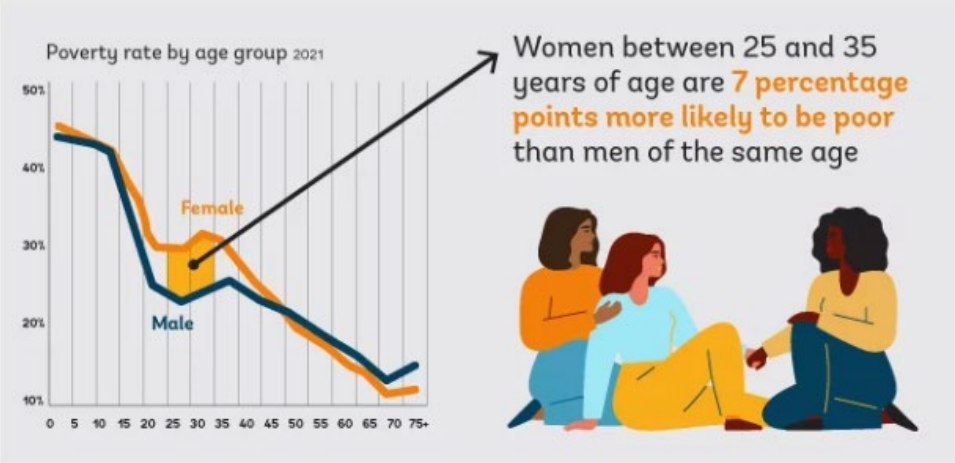
Over recent decades, the **Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAMs)** that emerged from the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action, as the governing bodies for national gender equality policies, have played a fundamental role in promoting gender equality and women's rights. According to a report prepared by CAF, as of 2021, approximately 60% of such mechanisms in Latin America had attained ministerial status or were headed by officials with ministerial rank; however, in the Caribbean, only Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago have achieved this level of institutional standing. Nonetheless, according to the Gender Equality Observatory of ECLAC, significant challenges persist in the region in advancing the implementation of equality plans.

All countries in the region have ratified **CEDAW and the Convention of Belém do Pará** and have committed to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. However, profound gaps remain in areas such as health, economic autonomy, participation, and violence against women.

4. Poverty

According to *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2024*[3] published by ECLAC, in 2023 regional monetary poverty affected 27.3% of the population, while extreme poverty reached 10.6% - the lowest levels since comparable records began, although still higher than 2014 levels in the case of extreme poverty. However, when disaggregated by sex, inequality becomes evident. Among people aged 20 to 59, the poverty rate for women in 2023 was 22.2%, nearly four percentage points higher than that of men. The femininity index of poverty (the ratio of female to male poverty) increased from 113 to 121 poor women for every 100 poor men between 2014 and 2023.

From a gender and economic autonomy perspective, ECLAC estimates that in the region one in four women (25.3%) has no income of her own—almost three times the proportion of men (9.7%). In the lowest income quintile, 40.4% of women lack their own monetary income, compared to 23.3% of men. This means that millions of women are economically dependent on others or on their households, increasing their exposure to poverty, insecurity, and economic violence.



Source: World Bank[4]

[3] Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2024: Challenges of Non-Contributory Social Protection for Advancing Inclusive Social Development, ECLAC. Available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/cepal-la-tasa-pobreza-regional-que-aumento-la-pandemia-se-ha-reducido-un-nivel-similar

[4] https://www.bancomundial.org/es/news/infographic/2024/03/01/reality-of-women-latin-america-caribbean

According to the **Multidimensional Poverty Index**[5] with a focus on women developed by UNDP for ten countries in the region, 27.4% of women experience multidimensional poverty, and on average they face deprivations in nearly half of the dimensions analyzed (including education, housing, employment, social protection, among others). In these countries, 19% of urban women experience multidimensional poverty, while this proportion is nearly three times higher among rural women, reaching 58%.

The study also shows that the main deprivations faced by women living in multidimensional poverty in these countries are related to an "unfavourable activity status"—including unpaid domestic and care work, informal employment, or wage employment that does not reach the minimum wage—as well as a "lack of access to the internet," affecting 66.3% and 50.6% of adult women, respectively.

There are more women than men living in poverty and extreme poverty, a higher proportion of women without their own income, and greater intensity of deprivations when poverty is analyzed from a multidimensional perspective. In the context of the agroclimatic innovation acceleration project, this implies recognizing that women—particularly rural, Indigenous, Afro-descendant women and female-headed households—start from a position of structural disadvantage in terms of access to income, assets, time, and social protection. Integrating this reality into the project design (including targeting criteria, partnership arrangements, indicators, and participation mechanisms) is essential for the intervention to effectively contribute to reducing the feminization of poverty and strengthening women's economic resilience to climate change.

5. Education

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions of the world where women have achieved the greatest advances in education: today, women record secondary and tertiary education completion rates equal to or higher than those of men. However, rural women continue to face **significant gaps in access to, retention in, and relevance of education and technical training**. These gaps are further exacerbated for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, young women, and women living in poverty. Territorial inequality remains one of the most pronounced expressions of the regional education system.

According to the Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture and Climate Change: Status and Perspectives from Institutional Frameworks in Latin America (IICA), while the region exhibits high levels of female schooling in urban areas, the rural reality is markedly different. In countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Bolivia, school lag rates among rural girls exceed those of urban girls by 10 to 20 percentage points, due to economic, geographic, and cultural barriers. In Mesoamerica, the study indicates that more than 35% of rural young women do not complete secondary education, limiting their access to technical training and higher-productivity employment. In Peru and Ecuador, rural Indigenous women register the highest relative illiteracy rates in the region, with estimates ranging from 12% to 18%, well above the national urban average.

Unequal access to education is further compounded when examining technical and agricultural training, which is critical for improving productivity and climate adaptation. The study shows that in most countries, **less than 20% of those accessing agricultural extension programs are women**, due to institutional biases, schedules incompatible with unpaid care work, lack of transportation, and limited adaptation of content to women's productive needs. For example, countries such as Paraguay, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic report that women's participation in agricultural technical assistance remains low despite the expansion of these services, with averages rarely exceeding 15–25% of total beneficiaries.

Gender-related barriers also affect training in the use of agricultural and climate technologies, including irrigation systems, soil management, seed storage, digital agriculture, and agroclimatic information services. In several Andean countries—such as Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador—the study shows that women have significantly lower access to digital devices, connectivity, and climate-related training, limiting their ability to anticipate droughts, frosts, or extreme rainfall. This technological gap directly affects women's climate

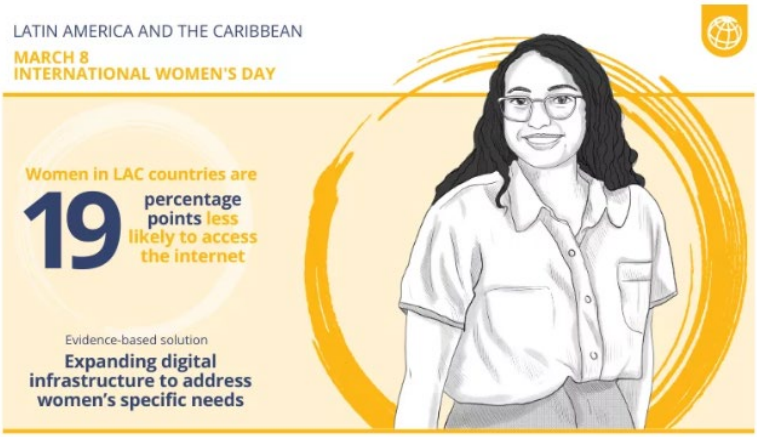
[5] Multidimensional Poverty Index, UNDP, 2023. Available at: https://www.undp.org/es/latin-america/comunicados-de-prensa/medicion-de-pobreza-multidimensional-con-foco-en-mujeres-para-erradicar-la-pobreza-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe

resilience and the innovation capacity of female-led productive units. Gender disparities in internet access reach up to 19 percentage points, although countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Belize have managed to close this gap.

A cross-cutting factor is the **disproportionate burden of unpaid care work**, which restricts women's available time to attend training sessions, pursue formal education, or participate in agricultural field schools. In rural areas of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Paraguay, women report spending an additional 6 to 8 hours per day on care and domestic tasks, significantly reducing their participation in technical training programs offered by ministries, agricultural centers, or climate projects.

The study also highlights that, although rural women often have higher levels of formal education than rural men, their opportunities to access productive, technological, or climate-related training remain more limited. In countries such as Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil, for example, completion rates of secondary education are higher among young rural women, yet men receive twice as much agricultural training, concentrating technical assistance and the associated productive resources.

At the university level, women's access has also increased significantly; however, persistent gaps remain in strategic fields such as STEM and in the transition to quality employment. According to Latinometrics analysis based on World Bank data, more than six out of ten women in the region access tertiary education, compared to less than half of men.[6].



Source: World Bank[7]

In several countries, this overrepresentation is even more pronounced: in Argentina and Uruguay, the female-to-male ratio at the tertiary education level exceeds 1.4, while in the Dominican Republic and Suriname it approaches 1.5. According to UNESCO data, this reflects a clear reversal of the gender gap in university access in favor of women[8].

An analysis by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the LAC region[9] shows that among people aged 25–34, the proportion of those who have completed tertiary education is higher for women than for men, with a gap of more than 5.2 percentage points in favor of women in Latin America and more than 8.4 percentage points in the Caribbean.

When examining fields of study, multilateral organizations identify a strong underrepresentation of women in STEM programmes (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). In most LAC countries, the

[6] World Economic Forum "This is how Latin American women came to be more educated than men", 2023. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/stories/2023/04/women-s-education-gender-gap-latin-america/
[7] https://www.bancomundial.org/es/region/lac/brief/country-gender-profiles-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean
[8] TheGlobalEconomy.com, UNESCO. Ratio of female to male students in tertiary education, 2022. Available at: https://es.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/Female_to_male_ratio_students_tertiary_level_educa/
[9] https://www.iadb.org/en/blog/gender-gaps-education-caribbean-are-girls-doing-better-boys

proportion of female university graduates in STEM is two to three times lower than that of men, limiting women's subsequent participation in higher-productivity sectors, technological innovation, and research—areas that are critical for climate action and the development of agroclimatic solutions.

At the same time, successful experiences have been documented in countries such as Costa Rica, Chile, and Uruguay, where gender-responsive rural training programmes have been implemented, field schools for women producers have been expanded, training tracks in agroecology have been created, and women's leadership in rural organizations has been actively promoted. These experiences demonstrate that strengthening the educational and techno-productive capacities of rural women is one of the most effective strategies to reduce poverty, improve food security, and enhance climate resilience across the region.

6. Women's health

According to the Evaluation of the Integration of Gender Equality in Technical Cooperation in Health in the Americas 2005–2023, published by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), public health advances in Latin America and the Caribbean have reduced the burden of many infectious diseases, enabling their control and, in some cases, their elimination. At the same time, the burden of non-communicable diseases has increased, requiring comprehensive, multisectoral health strategies that address the social determinants of health. In addition, the Americas is one of the most rapidly ageing regions in the world, and it is projected that by 2047 the number of older and dependent persons will exceed the number of children.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated health disparities, disproportionately affecting people in vulnerable situations and reversing progress achieved to date, thereby putting at risk the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018–2030. Inequalities in access to health care significantly contributed to high COVID-19 mortality rates and increased mental health disorders among vulnerable populations in the region.

Health systems in the region remain fragmented, creating barriers to equitable and efficient access to health care, particularly for populations in vulnerable situations, such as women, LGBTIQ+ individuals, Indigenous peoples, and migrants. Gender inequalities in health persist, and health care for women often remains narrowly focused on sexual and reproductive health, while other dimensions are frequently overlooked. Women tend to live longer than men but spend more years in poor health, experiencing conditions such as obesity, depression, and asthma, and bearing higher health care costs. In addition, women more frequently assume unpaid care roles, which limits their employment opportunities and reinforces their vulnerability. Men, by contrast, are more likely to die from external causes and from diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

International normative and policy frameworks, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, have established objectives to achieve gender equality in health. However, recent political, social, and economic changes have introduced new dynamics and challenges to achieving these objectives in the region. Persistent data gaps and difficulties in integrating gender-specific measures into public policies, including health policies, remain evident, and crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic have further exposed and exacerbated these challenges.

Gender gaps persist in access to health care, with disparities across countries driven in part by the wide diversity in the organization of health systems. A common characteristic across the region is the fragmentation between contributory and non-contributory health systems, with the former offering better financial coverage and higher quality of care than the latter. Because women have lower employment rates and higher levels of informality than men, they are underrepresented as holders of contributory health coverage. Despite this, women generally have a higher propensity to interact with the health system throughout their lives (RED, 2020). For example, according to data from the CAF Survey 2019, when experiencing an illness, 34% of women do not seek medical care, compared to 40% of men. However, lack of financial resources as a barrier to access is more frequent among women than among men.

According to the Pan American Health Organization, despite progress in reducing maternal mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean, significant challenges remain that require urgent efforts to ensure that all women have access to quality maternal health care. Although the region accounts for approximately 3% of total maternal deaths worldwide, it exhibits wide disparities in maternal mortality. Rates range from 10 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in Chile to 328 deaths in Haiti. Currently, five countries have a very low maternal mortality ratio (MMR) (below 20), 26 countries have a low MMR (20–99), four countries have a moderate MMR (100–299), and only one country has a high MMR (above 300)[10].

7. Violence against women

With regard to the legal framework, countries in the region have progressed from domestic or intra-family violence laws—known as first-generation legislation—to the adoption of more comprehensive legal frameworks addressing gender-based violence against women, which are currently in place in 13 Latin American countries. In addition, 17 countries have criminalized femicide, while others have enacted legislation addressing sexual crimes, workplace harassment, political violence and harassment against women, human trafficking, street harassment, and maternity and paternity leave, among other issues (ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory)[11].

For LGBTIQ+ people, normative advances to guarantee their rights and eliminate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity have been slower. However, some countries have adopted policies such as marriage equality and gender identity laws.

The ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory[12] reports that in 2024 at least 3,828 women were victims of femicide or gender-related violent deaths in 26 countries and territories across the region. This is equivalent to **11 women killed per day and more than 19,000 femicides recorded over a five-year period**. Data from 2024 show that femicide represents the most extreme expression of a continuum of violence affecting women in all areas of their lives. During that year, 14 countries reported 5,502 attempted femicides, highlighting the progression of violent behaviors that can culminate in murder and underscoring the importance of strengthening early warning systems, assessing the risk of lethal violence, and ensuring timely institutional responses to prevent all forms of femicidal violence. Strengthening access to justice and improving institutional responses are essential to preventing gender-based violence. ECLAC emphasizes that the persistence of these crimes in the region demands timely responses and an urgent acceleration of the transformations needed to address this challenge.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 20 countries have incorporated the crime of femicide, femicide/feminicide, or gender-related killing of women into their legal frameworks. In some cases, it has been classified as a specific criminal offense (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela). In others, such as Argentina, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, it has been incorporated as an aggravating circumstance of homicide. In addition, 16 countries have advanced legislation to eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage (Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago).

Although the region has made significant progress in legal frameworks—including femicide laws, comprehensive violence legislation, and protocols—major challenges remain in implementation, inter-institutional coordination, effective access to justice and services, and the availability of adequate resources.

[10] Report "Trends in Maternal Mortality" by the UN, 2023. Available at: https://www.paho.org/es/noticias/7-4-2025-ops-destaca-avances-reduccion-mortalidad-materna-americas-pero-advierte-sobre#:~:text=Washington%20D.C.%2C%207%20de%20abril,advirti%C3%B3%20la%20Organizaci%C3%B3n%20Panamericana%20de

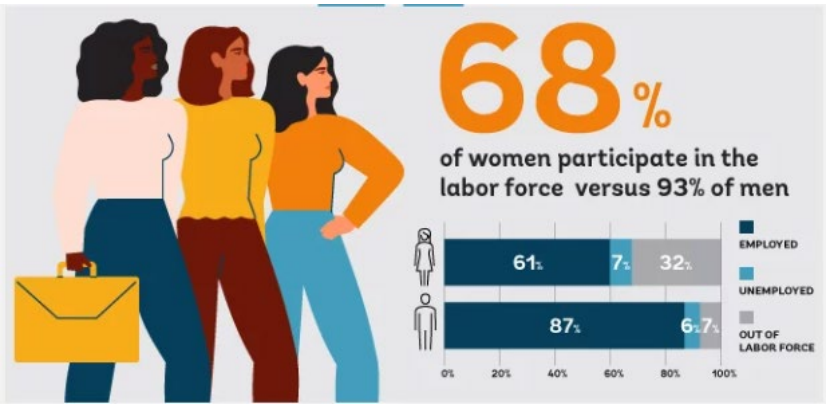
[11] Observatory on Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: https://oig.cepal.org/es

[12] Press Release from ECLAC: "At least 19,254 femicides have been recorded in the last five years in Latin America and the Caribbean," November 2025. Available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/cepal-al-menos-19254-feminicidios-se-han-registrado-ultimos-cinco-anos-america-latina

8. Employment, economic autonomy, and women's entrepreneurship

The economic situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean is characterized by significant advances in education and participation, alongside persistent gaps in employment, an unequal burden of unpaid care work, and barriers to entrepreneurship that limit women's economic autonomy and the full realization of their productive potential.

In the labour market, the most recent data from the International Labour Organization indicate that in 2024 the employment rate for women stood at 52.1%, compared to 74.3% for men, and that women earn on average 20% less than men for paid work. Although regional unemployment declined to 6.1%, nearly half of the employed population in the region remains in precarious and informal employment, a situation that disproportionately affects women, who are concentrated in low-productivity sectors with limited social protection. As a result, employed women in LAC are more likely to be engaged in vulnerable and low-income forms of work, such as own-account work or unpaid family work, although some Caribbean countries constitute exceptions.

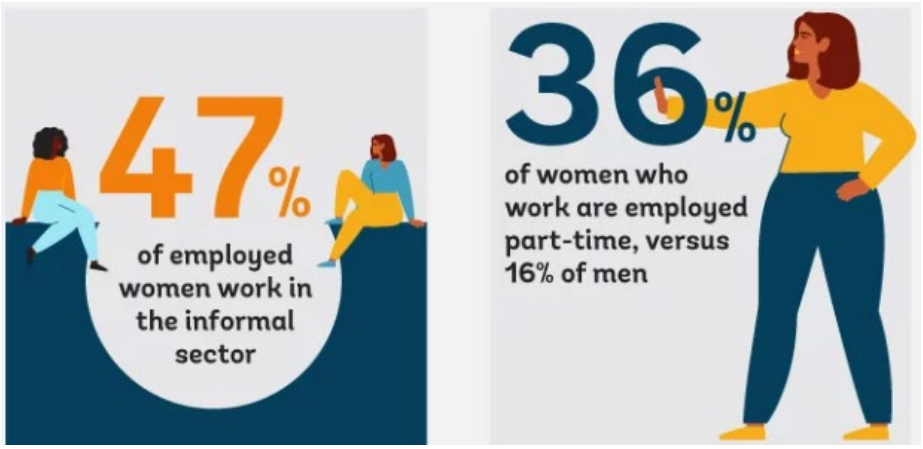


Source: World Bank

Unpaid care work remains one of the main structural bottlenecks. According to UN Women, women in the region devote between two and three times more time than men to domestic and care tasks, averaging between 22 and 42 hours per week of unpaid work. This overload limits women's ability to fully enjoy their rights on equal terms and has a direct impact on their economic autonomy: the feminization of poverty is closely linked to the time burdens associated with unpaid care work.

According to data from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the labour market participation gap widens to 40% when comparing men and women with children under five years of age. By contrast, the gap is below the regional average (24%) among men and women with children over the age of 18. This illustrates the difficulty women face in reconciling their labour trajectories with motherhood and the greater challenges they encounter when they choose to become mothers (IDB, 2019).

The unequal distribution of time limits women's availability for full-time employment, vocational training, and participation in decision-making spaces, and pushes many into informality, part-time work, or "forced" inactivity due to family responsibilities. In countries such as Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, time-use survey data show similar patterns: men continue to devote significantly more time to paid employment, while women shoulder the majority of domestic and care work.



Source: World Bank

Regarding women's entrepreneurship, the region simultaneously exhibits a high presence of women willing to take the step into entrepreneurial activity, alongside strong barriers—such as those highlighted throughout this analysis—that hinder their progression and growth. Latin America and the Caribbean has consolidated itself as the region with the highest rates of female entrepreneurship in the world yet still faces pronounced gaps in access to resources and business growth. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2024 Report[13] approximately 21% of new businesses in the region are started by women, and 33% of entrepreneurial intentions are also female. In addition, the report shows that women in the region place the greatest emphasis on sustainability in their ventures: 72.8% state that sustainability is central to their business model.

However, despite this dynamism, most women-led enterprises are concentrated in low-productivity sectors (such as commerce and services) and are constrained by the overload of unpaid care work, which limits the time available to scale and consolidate their businesses. Similarly, UNDP, in its article "*The Power to Entrepreneur: Women Transforming the Region with Courage and Vision*," notes that interest in entrepreneurship is virtually equal between men and women, making Latin America and the Caribbean the region with the smallest gender gap in entrepreneurial intentions globally. This reflects sustained progress toward greater equity in access to entrepreneurial opportunities.

UNDP also highlights that 49% of women in LAC have started a business at some point, demonstrating significant entrepreneurial dynamism; however, approximately 73% of women-led enterprises lack access to the financial resources needed to grow and are concentrated in less profitable segments of value chains (services, retail trade, food, and domestic work). Along these lines, the World Bank estimates that women-owned businesses in LAC face greater credit constraints, more limited access to bank accounts, digital banking, and collateral, resulting in lower profitability and a higher risk of business closure.

Care responsibilities, which are largely assumed by women, also contribute to time poverty that hinders their ability to scale their businesses. Although progress has been made in financial inclusion, significant gaps persist: in 2021, only 70% of women held a bank account, compared to 77% of men, and fewer than 5% of women who applied for a loan did so for the purpose of starting, operating, or expanding a business (ECLAC, 2024). These data reflect an underutilization of financial services by women entrepreneurs.

Studies by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC)[14] estimate that the financing gap for women-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the region amounts to tens of billions of dollars. Women entrepreneurs face greater obstacles in terms of collateral requirements, credit history, and access to business networks, despite often demonstrating better

[13] Women's Entrepreneurship Report, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2023/2024 Available at:: https://www.gemconsortium.org/report/202324-womens-entrepreneurship-report-reshaping-economies-and-communities-2

[14] Unlocking potential: real impact of virtual training for women entrepreneurs in LAC: lessons learned from the project WE3A: strengthening women entrepreneurs in value chains, IDB Lab, 2025. Available at: https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:b33c239d-8a29-404e-a685-cfc3bf8905a8

repayment behavior than men. In Costa Rica, for example, only 31.4% of self-employed workers are women, and nearly one in five women micro-entrepreneurs identifies access to training as a priority need to strengthen her business.

In the business sphere, there is growing evidence that women-owned or women-led companies tend to prioritize social and environmental benefits over shareholder value alone. In addition, companies with greater gender diversity on their boards of directors are significantly more likely to reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and water use. For these reasons, it is essential to underscore the importance of gender inclusion in leadership. Inclusive leadership is not only a matter of social responsibility, but also a strategic business decision with multiple benefits.

In summary, the economic profile of women in Latin America and the Caribbean is shaped by persistent employment gaps, a deeply unequal organization of care work, and a dynamic yet underfinanced entrepreneurial sector. This creates a context in which formal equality coexists with real inequalities in income, time, opportunities, and economic power. Closing these gaps requires comprehensive policies on decent employment, care systems, financial inclusion, and targeted support for women-led enterprises, aligned with the region's existing gender equality and sustainable development frameworks.

9. Indigenous peoples and gender inequalities in Latin America

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the world. According to estimates by ECLAC[15], more than 58 million Indigenous peoples live in the region, distributed across at least 826 distinct peoples, with a particularly strong presence in Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Panama. These peoples maintain knowledge systems, traditional agricultural practices, and forms of territorial management that are strategic for climate adaptation. However, they face structural inequalities that are expressed more intensely in the lives of Indigenous women.

In countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, the incidence of poverty among Indigenous populations exceeds that of non-Indigenous populations by 20 to 30 percentage points. ECLAC notes that Indigenous women experience the highest levels of multidimensional poverty in the region, accumulating simultaneous deprivations in education, housing, access to services, health, and social protection. Their labour market participation is predominantly informal and low-paid, and the average incomes of Indigenous women may be 30% to 50% lower than those of Indigenous men and non-Indigenous women.

In education, despite recent progress, significant gaps persist. In Andean countries such as Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, illiteracy rates among Indigenous women are two to three times higher than those of non-Indigenous women. Barriers to school access and retention are particularly pronounced in rural and remote areas, affected by linguistic, cultural, and geographic constraints. These barriers subsequently translate into lower participation by Indigenous women in agricultural technical training, rural extension services, innovation processes, and the use of technologies for climate adaptation.

Access to land and productive resources constitutes another critical constraint. Although many Indigenous communities hold collective forms of land ownership, women often have fewer formally recognized land rights, which limits their economic autonomy, their ability to access financing, and their formal participation in state or climate-related programmes. In countries such as Ecuador, Mexico, and Panama, Indigenous women report reduced access to technical assistance, agricultural inputs, credit, and marketing channels.[16].

In addition, Indigenous women are more exposed to the impacts of climate change. Soil degradation, prolonged droughts, loss of water sources, and displacement directly affect their roles in food production, seed management, gathering activities, and family care. These vulnerabilities are compounded by

[15] Indigenous Peoples of Latin America: Progress in the Last Decade and Pending Challenges for the Guarantee of Their Rights. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Santiago, Chile, 2020. Available at: https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47637-pueblos-indigenas-america-latina-avances-ultimo-decenio-retos-pendientes-la

[16] Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change: Status and Perspectives from Institutional Frameworks in Latin America. IICA, 2016.

intersecting forms of discrimination[17] – as noted above, being a woman, Indigenous, and rural entails facing simultaneous barriers in political representation, community participation, and access to basic services-.

Despite these inequalities, Indigenous women are key actors in territorial defense, forest protection, agroecology, and the transmission of traditional knowledge. Experiences in Mexico, Bolivia, and Colombia show that their community leadership strengthens local climate resilience and the sustainability of agricultural practices. For projects seeking to enhance the climate resilience of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries systems in the region, integrating Indigenous women's knowledge and ensuring their active participation is essential to promote adapted, culturally appropriate, and rights-based solutions.

10. Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean

The youth population of Latin America and the Caribbean – defined as those between 15 and 29 years of age – represents a strategic group for inclusive development and the transition to climate-resilient productive models. However, they face a set of structural vulnerabilities that intersect with gender, class, ethnicity, and territory. Recent reports from ECLAC and UNDP highlight that young people continue to be overrepresented in poverty, informal labor, and exclusion from social protection systems, especially when they live in rural areas or belong to indigenous or Afro-descendant communities.

According to the ILO report, youth employment remains one of the region's greatest challenges. Although the average youth unemployment rate continued to decline, it remains very high, dropping from 14.5% in 2023 to 13.8% in 2024. Despite this slight improvement, the labor challenges facing young people are still evident. The youth unemployment rate is nearly three times higher than that of adults. The lack of stable, paid employment, combined with high informality and low wages, limits the social mobility opportunities for this group. In this context, the need to fully and sustainably integrate young people into the formal labor market presents a significant challenge.
On the other hand, young cohorts, particularly women, have achieved higher levels of education than previous generations in the region. The World Economic Forum documents that in several countries, young women surpass men in access to tertiary education, confirming a reversal of the traditional educational gap. However, significant territorial and quality inequalities persist. Rural, indigenous, and Afro-descendant youth face higher rates of educational lag, school dropout, and difficulties in accessing relevant technical training, especially in agriculture, environmental management, and digital technologies, as highlighted in the regional study by IICA on gender, agriculture, and climate change. Adding to this is the digital divide—limited access to the internet, devices, and digital skills—which exacerbates these disparities and restricts the participation of rural youth in innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems[18].

In the rural and agricultural sector, the situation of young people is particularly critical, yet simultaneously full of potential. Studies by IICA and other agencies show that rural youth face difficulties in accessing land, credit, technical assistance, and connectivity, which encourages migration and accelerates the aging of rural areas[19]. However, these same studies highlight the key role of rural youth as change agents in the transformation of agrifood systems, as they drive agroecological practices, recover ancestral knowledge, incorporate digital technologies, and promote green and circular enterprises. In the Caribbean and other areas highly exposed to climate change, young people are on the front lines facing extreme events, loss of

[17] Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean: Trapped in Inequality. UNDP, 2021. Available at: https://www.undp.org/es/latin-america/informe-regional-de-desarrollo-humano-2021
[18] https://juventudesrurales.iica.int/
[19] Rural Youth, Leading the Present of Agriculture, IICA, 2024. Available at: https://juventudesrurales.iica.int/en/las-juventudes-rurales-liderando-el-presente-de-la-agricultura%ef%bf%bc/

livelihoods, and environmental degradation. At the same time, they are active in networks and movements that demand climate justice and equitable access to financing and innovation[20].

Entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems offer significant opportunities for youth in the region, although there are strong access asymmetries. Reports from UNDP, IDB, and IDB Lab highlight that Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions with the highest entrepreneurial dynamism among youth and women. However, young people face credit restrictions, limited participation in business networks, and a lack of incubation and acceleration programs tailored to their needs. Initiatives like the WE3A project from IDB Lab show positive results in virtual business skills training for women and young entrepreneurs, but also reveal persistent barriers such as time constraints, connectivity issues, and caregiving responsibilities for young women in rural areas. Complementarily, sectoral tools like the "WeClim Equally" manual and agro-climatic programs from FONTAGRO and IICA emphasize that climate innovation will only be sustainable if it explicitly integrates young people and women in solution design, decision-making, and access to financing and incubation networks.

11. Gender and Sustainable Development Goals

"The 2030 Agenda, both in its declaration and in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promotes a commitment to gender equality, the rights, and the empowerment of women and girls in a cross-cutting manner. Likewise, SDG 5 specifically aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and SDG 1, through its targets 1.b, 4.5, and 4.7, explicitly supports this commitment.

The 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015 by the 193 Member States of the United Nations (UN); therefore, all Latin American countries have formally committed to it. To monitor its implementation, countries may voluntarily submit a Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN. Between 2016 and 2025, 32 of the 33 countries in the region submitted at least one VNR[21], indicating a high level of institutional commitment to the Agenda, although progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been uneven.

12. Gender, Rurality, and Climate Change (CC)

In 2015, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) conducted a 'Regional study on gender, agriculture, and climate change: status and perspectives from the institutional framework in Latin America,'[22] in which 18 Latin American countries participated.[23] This regional study on gender, climate change (CC), and agriculture aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and policies of organizations in Latin American countries in order to learn more about their management approaches and strategies regarding the inclusion of gender in strategies and actions for the agricultural sector that seek to address climate change in the region. Most notably, it highlights the importance of promoting the integration of a gender perspective in public policy and at the institutional level so as to mainstream the issue, particularly because adaptation to climate change through agriculture has the

[20] Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean, Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez, CLACSO, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2020. Available at: HYPERLINK "https://biblioteca-repositorio.clacso.edu.ar/bitstream/CLACSO/11495/1/Cambio-climatico-impactos.pdf"https://biblioteca-repositorio.clacso.edu.ar/bitstream/CLACSO/11495/1/Cambio-climatico-impactos.pdf
[21] Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Available at: https://agenda2030lac.org/en/voluntary-national-reviews-vnr?utm_source=chatgpt.com
[22] "Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change: Status and Perspectives from Institutional Frameworks in Latin America," IICA, 2016. Available at: https://www.cac.int/sites/default/files/IICA_-_UE._G%C3%A9nero_Agricultura_y_CC._2015.pdf
[23] The countries considered in this study were Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela..

potential to be a driver of change to achieve the transformational shifts required for a competitive, inclusive, and sustainable Latin American agriculture in the long term.

Regarding the state of institutionalization on gender, CC, and agriculture in ALC, a report by PNUD and UNISDR[24] for the ALC region shows that although many countries have national mechanisms to integrate a gender perspective, these have not yet been mainstreamed into policies and strategies for disaster risk reduction (PNUD et al., 2015:1). For example, in ALC, 20% of the countries reported progress in incorporating gender issues into their disaster risk management policies, 23% of the countries reported having adopted measures to include a gender-based approach in recovery efforts, and 15% of the countries reported having conducted capacity and vulnerability assessments disaggregated by sex (PNUD et al., 2015:1). Only eight countries in the region (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru) have incorporated gender as a cross-cutting dimension within the regulatory frameworks for disaster risk reduction, and even when gender-sensitive approaches are integrated, women are still underrepresented in senior positions within decision-making spheres (PNUD, 2015:175).

Among the causes that explain the greater impact of climate change on women and LGBTI+ individuals are: lower access to education; fewer opportunities to access natural resources such as land and water, as well as tools like information and communication technologies; limited participation in decision-making and planning spaces for climate change adaptation; and low or no access to credit (ONU, 2020).

In this context, the guidelines for designing climate policies with a gender and diversity perspective are organized into the following proposals and key ideas:

- Incorporate a gender and diversity approach in climate policies, which entails analyzing cultural aspects, roles, stereotypes, and tasks that affect social participation according to gender.
- Implement international climate policies through the Gender Action Plan agreed upon in the mentioned Conventions at the national and subnational levels.
- Mainstream the gender approach in the design, implementation, and evaluation of national and subnational policies.
- Develop data that include gender and diversity dimensions, along with resulting socio-economic gaps, as mandatory indicators in all action plans.
- Strengthen the participation of civil society and women's and LGBTI+ movements in the design of high-impact public policies, with perspectives for the short, medium, and long term.

13. Progress on Gender in the Conferences of the Parties (COP)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force in March 1994. The objective of the Convention is to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The Convention establishes a general framework for intergovernmental efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change. Gender issues were not mentioned in this convention.

According to the publication "Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean"[25] the gender approach was incorporated for the first time in 2001 during COP 7 held in Marrakech, Morocco. At that time, the Parties were mandated to ensure that national adaptation action programs should consider gender equity.

This same document presents a chronology highlighting the progress achieved at each COP[26]:

[24] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
[25] "Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean," Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez, CLACSO, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2020..
[26] In the document "Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean," information is provided up to COP 27. The details mentioned about COP 28, COP 29, and COP 30 are produced by the consulting team based on official sources.

- COP 16 (Cancún, Mexico, 2010) 'urges the Parties to pay attention to the causes of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure, forest governance, gender considerations, and safeguards that ensure the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities' (Arana, 2017).

- COP 17 (Durban, South Africa, 2011) called on the Parties to ensure that gender considerations are respected in the safeguards.

- COP 18 (Doha, Qatar, 2012) laid the foundation for systematically considering gender equality within the framework of the UNFCCC by deciding to make it a permanent issue of the COP (Decision 23 / CP 18).

- COP 19 (Warsaw, Poland, 2013) proposed defining a biennial work plan with specific activities to assess the capacities, sensitivity, budgets, methodologies, and instruments of the Parties to address climate change from a gender perspective.

- COP 20 (Lima, Peru, 2014) marked the first real concern about the gender dimension with the proposal of the Lima Work Programme on Gender.[27]Here, the Parties reached a consensus on a gender-sensitive climate change policy, which was binding and applied to all areas of the negotiations. This involved reviewing the mandates approved by the Convention related to gender.

- The Paris Agreement of 2015 acknowledges the links between climate change, gender equality, and women's empowerment. The agreement also stipulates that adaptation initiatives and capacity-building efforts must take gender issues into account, but it entirely abstracts from the gender dimension in the sections on mitigation, technology, and financing.

- COP 23 (Bonn, Germany, 2017) Gender Action Plan, to be developed over two years.

- COP 25 (Madrid, Spain, 2019) Gender Action Plan 2025, to be developed over five years.

- COP 27 (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2022) was heavily criticized by human rights organizations for being hosted in Egypt, due to the country's poor human rights record, especially regarding issues related to the LGBTQ+ community. Amnesty International urged the governments participating in COP 27 to use the opportunity to pressure Egyptian authorities to make significant progress on human rights issues. They emphasized that COP 27 was an appropriate platform to promote the safe, meaningful, and effective participation of both Egyptian and non-Egyptian civil society actors in the country.

- COP 28 (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2023) approved the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership[28] — an agreement in which over 60 countries committed to incorporating a gender approach into their climate actions, promoting 'just and inclusive transitions' that recognize the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, girls, indigenous peoples, rural communities, and those in vulnerable situations. The agreement includes concrete commitments: full and meaningful female participation in decision-making, women's leadership, equitable access to climate finance, gender-sensitive budgeting policies, protection of rights, social services, access to decent employment, social security, protection from violence, care, well-being, and more. In this way, the declaration of the Partnership and the commitments of COP 28 reaffirm international frameworks such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the enhanced Lima Gender Work Programme, and its Gender Action Plan within the UNFCCC, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 5) as part of the way forward. This consolidates a normative/climatic

[27] The program includes a mapping of decisions and conclusions adopted on gender and climate change with the purpose of identifying areas of progress, potential gaps, and areas where support and collaboration are needed.
[28] https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-gender-responsive-just-transitions-and-climate-action-partnership

approach that recognizes that climate change is not gender-neutral: its impacts, risks, and solutions require differentiated, sensitive, and inclusive policies.

- COP 29 (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2024) saw the Parties decide to extend the Gender Work Programme — Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and Climate Change — for another 10 years. A new gender action plan was decided to be initiated, with design work starting in 2025. A 'Gender Equality Day' was held, featuring both high-level dialogues and technical discussions. The goal was to highlight the importance of incorporating gender considerations into the transparency framework of the convention — including the possibility of capturing learnings and needs in the 'global stocktake' and in the NDCs. The disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls — especially in rural and indigenous territories — were more strongly emphasized, reinforcing the argument that climate policies need a gender justice approach.

- COP 30 (Belém, Brazil, 2025) formally adopted a new Gender Action Plan: the Belém Gender Action Plan 2026-2034, as a result of the process initiated at COP 29. The commitment to align climate action with social protection, human rights, equity, and inclusion was reaffirmed, and the decisions made (Belém Package) included explicit references to 'just transition, adaptation, fair financing, gender, and technology,' providing a renewed institutional framework that integrates gender into global climate action. UN Women launched a monitoring tool to assess how countries integrate gender equality into their climate policies, covering dimensions such as health, economic security, and gender-based violence.[29].

There has been steady progress in the incorporation and adoption of gender issues throughout the various COPs. Currently, this process opens a window of opportunity to move toward climate governance that is more gender-sensitive, with an emphasis on inclusive participation, equitable access to financing, and the design of integrated policies for adaptation and resilience.

14. Experiences of Women's Empowerment in the Business Sector

- Sustainability Reports: These have become a key tool for companies to document their commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development. These reports allow organizations to be transparent about how they manage the social, environmental, and governance impacts resulting from their decisions and operations, incorporating a human rights approach and respect for the environment. In some countries, reporting is mandatory for companies of a certain size[30]; in others, where no specific regulations exist, companies adopt international reference frameworks to report their performance and progress in ESG matters[31]. This transition means that organizations are no longer evaluated solely on their financial results, but also on their contribution to the well-being of people and the sustainability of the territories where they operate. In this process, tools that integrate gender equality and a care approach become particularly relevant.
- Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs): In 2010, UN Women and the Global Compact[32] created the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)[33], to provide companies with a guiding platform on

[29] https://lac.unwomen.org/es/stories/noticia/2025/11/acelerar-una-transicion-justa-onu-mujeres-lanza-monitoreo-de-igualdad-de-genero-y-politicas-climaticas
[30] As an example, Brazil incorporated the 2023 International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Sustainability Disclosure Standards of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) into the Brazilian regulatory framework. These standards will be voluntary starting in 2024 and mandatory as of January 1, 2026.
[31] According to KPMG data (2022), 69% of Latin American companies report on ESG. Of these, 28% use the Integrated Reporting format.
[32] The Global Compact is a call to businesses to incorporate 10 universal principles related to human rights, labor, the environment, and the fight against corruption into their strategies and operations, as well as to act in a way that advances social goals and the implementation of the SDGs. Available at: https://www.un.org/es/cr%C3%B3nica-onu/el-pacto-mundial-de-la-onu-la-b%C3%BAsqueda-de-soluciones-para-retos-globales
[33] 1) Promote gender equality from the highest level of management. 2) Treat all people — women and men — fairly, respecting and supporting human rights and non-discrimination. 3) Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all workers. 4) Promote the education, training, and professional development of women. 5) Implement business practices that strengthen women's empowerment (supply

how to promote a gender approach. The WEPs constitute the largest global platform for business action in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Currently, more than 10,000 companies worldwide are committed to these principles, including over 2,500 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within this framework, the principles promote, among other aspects, shared social responsibility and care in the business sector; an expert team designs and implements specific actions for companies in the region.

- ISO Gender Equality Standard 53800:2024: ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is a global federation composed of 172 national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). ISO standards are the result of international consensus among experts and can be defined as formulas that describe the best way of doing something. The purpose of ISO Guide 53800:2024 is to provide guidelines, definitions, procedures, and tools to public and private organizations to promote, support, and guide sustainable progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, both internally and externally. Its objective is to provide guidance to organizations in meeting their obligations with regard to gender equality and the UN 2030 Agenda (in particular, SDG 5). This guide recognizes, within its guidance, the need for organizations to address shared responsibility for care work, thereby reducing the burden of unpaid work for women. The document has been validated by a Working Group composed of stakeholders from the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.
- Program to strengthen business incubators and accelerators in the countries of the SICA region: In partnership with the Fundación da Vinci, the program aimed to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the countries of the SICA region. This included the evaluation and selection of entrepreneurial projects from existing incubators and accelerators in the region with growth potential, as well as advisory services, mentoring, and the linkage of participating entrepreneurs with investors and financing networks. In 2020, an online training program was conducted for management teams of incubators and/or accelerators, with an average participation of 55 managers from 40 organizations within the regional ecosystem that lead incubation and/or acceleration programs. Capacity strengthening was also supported through financial and technical resources. In partnership with the Latin America and the Caribbean Network of Incubators and Accelerators (incubadorasLAT), a diagnostic assessment of incubation and/or acceleration programs in the SICA region was carried out, making it possible to identify common characteristics, distinctive features, strengths, demands, and operational and management challenges as opportunities for improvement for centers that support entrepreneurs. A total of 54 organizations providing early-stage business support services and 40 organizations leading incubation and/or acceleration programs were identified.
- 4th SICA EMPRENDE Meeting 'Innovate, Connect, Scale': Continuing with the virtual format, it was held from April 27 to 29, 2022, with the aim of promoting an approach focused on expanding the space of opportunities for entrepreneurship in the SICA region. Within this framework, investment rounds were organized for triple-impact ventures from countries in the SICA region, with the purpose of fostering a new vision of entrepreneurial and innovation mindsets and culture and supporting investment-seeking for business development across the different stages of the business life cycle.
- Regional Network of Entrepreneurs' Associations of the SICA region[34]: It promotes interaction and collaboration among entrepreneurs in the SICA region. It implements virtual platforms and collaborative spaces, organizes events and regional meetings for the exchange of experiences and good practices, and promotes the participation of associations in the design of public policies related

chains, marketing, etc.). 6) Promote equality through community initiatives and lead by example (lobbying). 7) Evaluate and disseminate progress made in favor of gender equality and women's empowerment.

[34] It is composed of 11 associations: Women's Entrepreneurs Network Association of El Salvador; Community of Entrepreneurs (CEMPRENDE); Entrepreneurs Association of El Salvador; Entrepreneurs Association of Costa Rica; Yo Emprendedor Association; Entrepreneurs Association of Honduras; Women Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurs Association of Honduras; Entrepreneurs Association of Guatemala; National Entrepreneurs Association of the Dominican Republic; Young Entrepreneurs Association of Panama; Businesswomen's Network of Nicaragua.

to entrepreneurship. CENPROMYPE supported the Regional Network of Entrepreneurs' Associations in defining and developing its business model in order to consolidate the network's overall value proposition.

- Research on inclusive financial solutions for MIPYME: A collaboration agreement was established between CENPROMYPE and the Catholic University of Uruguay 'Dámaso Antonio Larrañaga,' which, through technical cooperation with BID Lab, gave rise to the Xcala program[35], to carry out research on the supply and demand gap for capital in the MIPYME segment, as well as an analysis of existing financial instruments and solutions for MIPYMEs in the SICA region. Within this framework, the educational program called Angel Investment 101 is being developed through a series of introductory workshops on angel investing. This program aims to promote early-stage investment and professionalize investors so they can make more and better investments.
- Regional Strategy for Business Development with an Innovation Focus for MIPYMEs: Within the framework of this strategy, the Pilot Project for Innovation Development of Central American MIPYMEs was implemented. The project sought to promote collaboration among the parties involved in its development by addressing gaps in competencies related to research and development of food innovations. Through an open call, 20 women entrepreneurs from the food sector located in Guatemala and Belize were initially selected to participate in hands-on training through virtual sessions held between May and June 2023. Subsequently, six women from this group were selected to take part in the Immersion process, based on the growth potential of their businesses, as well as the commitment and availability they demonstrated during the training.
- Regional Observatory on Competitiveness and Productive and Sustainable Innovation of MIPYMEs: It functions as a permanent and up-to-date information system responsible for producing, systematizing, and providing knowledge on relevant aspects affecting the competitiveness, productivity, and sustainable development of MIPYMEs, with the aim of proactively and strategically promoting their role in regional integration and economic and social development. As part of its output, the Observatory produces periodic reports and analyses that make it possible to assess the progress and impact of actions implemented in the field of entrepreneurship and MIPYMEs. Within this framework, collaboration with academic institutions and research organizations is promoted to strengthen the quality of the Observatory's data and analyses.
- Innova tu Mercado: It is transforming Peru's traditional wholesale markets through a comprehensive initiative aimed at strengthening business competitiveness—especially those led by women—by increasing the use of digital tools, thereby driving local economic growth and development. The methodology begins with in-person mentoring by young volunteers known as Digiamig@s, who provide technical assistance in the use of digital tools such as Zoom, WhatsApp, and Artificial Intelligence. Subsequently, participants receive virtual technical advisory support during evening hours, led by specialists in digital and business topics. As a result of this approach, more than 2,400 traders—70% of whom are women over the age of 50—have increased their digital confidence by 70%, reaching a total of 40 markets across 7 regions of the country.
- IMPULSOHN: An initiative supported by the Secretariat of Economic Development of Honduras, aimed at strengthening the country's productive fabric by providing entrepreneurs with key tools and resources to consolidate and expand their businesses. Through the program, participants have received seed capital, access to new markets through participation in international fairs, and a series of specialized training covering key topics such as social media advertising, value proposition, customer service, business digitalization, work-life balance, creating an elevator pitch, and innovation workshops. In the second half of 2024, 745 women received training, and in the first quarter of 2025, 453 women-led enterprises were supported, demonstrating how the initiative continues to generate real and sustainable change.

[35] Xcala: a program aimed at promoting early-stage investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, helping entrepreneurs raise capital to take their businesses to the next levels of development.

- Proyecto WE3A Project[36]: This initiative aims to strengthen women entrepreneurs within value chains in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was launched in May 2021 in six countries: Guyana, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Ecuador, focusing on integrating women into business ecosystems and addressing challenges such as limited access to financing and lack of training. High-quality, free training was provided through digital platforms and webinars. Among its lessons learned, the project notes that women face significant barriers that limit their participation in the business sphere: 1) Women-owned businesses are concentrated in low-margin sectors and informal activities. 2) Women face difficulties accessing credit and business networks, in addition to care responsibilities and risks of gender-based violence. 3) Despite improvements in legal frameworks, implementation remains weak, affecting access to financing and market opportunities. The project is structured into three components: i) Aspire: Mapping of the women-led SME ecosystem and awareness campaigns to challenge cultural norms. ii) Activate: Training in business skills through the DreamBuilder platform and webinars. iii) Accelerate: A six-month acceleration program for more mature businesses, including mentorship and expansion planning.

15. Contributions of the Stakeholder Consultation Process

As part of the formulation process of the AFCIA Program, consultations were held with academic institutions, implementing organizations, and key stakeholders working in the region with a focus on gender and social inclusion. These consultations helped enrich the gender diagnosis, identify specific barriers in the territories, and gather lessons learned that guide the definition of effective and culturally relevant measures within the Gender Action Plan.

In particular, consultations were held with the National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Argentina (INTA), Zamorano University of Honduras, producer associations such as the National Federation of Farmers and Ranchers of Honduras (FENAC), which represents more than 60% of rural producers; and the Union of Agricultural Workers of Argentina (UTT) with over 25,000 associated producers, as well as the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero Argentina (MOCASE). Most of these organizations have extensive experience working in the agricultural sector and innovation. The highlighted needs—adequate financing, specialized technical assistance, greater inclusion of women and youth, and more robust dissemination and scaling mechanisms—were essential inputs for the formulation of the Program.

First, the interviews highlighted that there is a wide institutional diversity in gender issues in Latin America and the Caribbean: numerous organizations—both public and private, as well as universities and NGOs—that integrate gender and social inclusion approaches into their institutional frameworks and the operation of agricultural development, innovation, and climate adaptation projects. However, internal capacities, resource availability, and the degree of formalization of gender policies vary substantially between countries and organizations.

A relevant contribution came from the consultation with specialists from Zamorano University, who emphasized the importance of adapting gender strategies to the sociocultural context of each territory. They pointed out that, in some areas of Central America where strongly patriarchal sociocultural patterns prevail, a direct approach to gender content may generate resistance and even reduce women's participation, as observed in previous experiences following workshops specifically focused on the topic. In response, they recommend conducting a diagnosis of each context that is sensitive to local dynamics and advancing with a progressive approach, integrating

[36] https://we3a.org/es/sobre/

the strengthening of productive, technical, and organizational capacities as a way to promote the participation of women and vulnerable groups without creating socio-community tensions.

During the consultation with the Union of Agricultural Workers (UTT), it was highlighted that, while they always consider gender issues, they have a specific group that coordinates activities and training. Additionally, when organizing meetings or training sessions, they make sure to provide daycare services or choose times when children are in school, which facilitates women's participation in their activities.

In the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero (MOCASE), the gender issue is addressed in a fully transversal manner, integrating it into all its areas of action and projects.

The consultations also highlighted the importance of adapting participation mechanisms to the realities of rural women and youth, including schedules that align with their caregiving responsibilities, easily accessible spaces, availability of transportation, and flexible participation formats. Considering these conditions was identified as essential to avoid unintentional biases in the call for participation and to strengthen the effective inclusion of women, youth, and members of indigenous communities in workshops and activities related to research, innovation, and co-design.

On the other hand, it was mentioned that Zamorano University works according to the guidelines of funding sources. For example, when dealing with projects funded by USAID, they must comply with the requirements of this source, or the same applies to FAO projects. However, they do not have a specific unit dedicated exclusively to gender issues or social and environmental safeguards (ESS); instead, these matters are addressed within the general requirements of the projects.

Finally, FONTAGRO's experiences in environmental and social safeguards were highlighted. The institution directly applies the environmental and social policy of the IDB in the registration and monitoring of its operations, which includes an automatic system for classifying and reporting indicators, including those related to gender. As part of this system, projects supported by FONTAGRO must answer specific safeguard questions and incorporate indicators into their forms and reports. This supports the explicit inclusion of gender and inclusive participation within the project's monitoring and follow-up actions, as well as the need to support science-community partnerships in strengthening capacities to meet these standards.

In summary, the consultation process shows that there is a strong institutional foundation for integrating the gender approach and intersectionality into the Project. However, its effectiveness will depend on context-sensitive strategies, the reduction of real participation barriers, and continuous technical support that enables the translation of these approaches into concrete and sustainable practices in the rural territories of the region.

16. Conclusions

C1. The gender diagnosis of Latin America and the Caribbean reveals robust and advanced normative and institutional frameworks in terms of gender equality and human rights—including CEDAW, the Belém do Pará Convention, the 2030 Agenda, the Montevideo Strategy, and national mechanisms for the advancement of women—although deep gender gaps persist in poverty, health, education, employment, access to productive resources, political participation, and violence. Formal equality and progress in legislation coexist with substantive inequality, manifested in the

feminization of poverty, the caregiving burden, labor segmentation, and the persistence of stereotypes and discriminatory practices.

C2. From a socioeconomic perspective, **poverty has a clear gendered and intersectional bias.** Women—particularly rural, indigenous, Afro-descendant, single mothers, and young women—face higher rates of both monetary and multidimensional poverty, with less access to personal income, productive assets, social protection, and financial services. The concentration of women in informal and low-productivity jobs, along with the disproportionate burden of unpaid domestic and caregiving work, limits their opportunities for continued education, quality employment, innovation, and participation in decision-making spaces. ***These structural conditions directly impact their ability to adapt to climate change and their capacity to fully and meaningfully participate in agro-climatic innovation initiatives.***

C3. In the educational field, although the region shows notable progress in women's enrollment and access to tertiary and even university education—often surpassing that of men—significant qualitative inequalities persist. Rural, indigenous, and Afro-descendant women continue to face higher rates of school lag, relative illiteracy, and obstacles to accessing relevant technical, agricultural, and climate-related training. This is compounded by persistent gender gaps in STEM fields, limiting women's access to strategic areas for innovation, technology, and science applied to climate adaptation. In this context, **women's educational potential is not fully translated into leadership positions, research, or tech-driven enterprises linked to agricultural, forestry, and fisheries systems.**

C4. In health, the analysis shows undeniable progress in the region, but also critical setbacks. **Disparities persist in access to and the quality of healthcare,** as well as in health outcomes, with particular concern for maternal mortality, sexual and reproductive health, mental health, and the burden of non-communicable diseases that affect women differently. The fragmentation of healthcare systems, inequality in contributory coverage, and economic and territorial barriers deepen these gaps, affecting rural, indigenous, migrant women, and LGBTIQ+ individuals more acutely. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these inequalities and highlighted the limitations of health systems to respond with a gender and rights-based approach.

C5. Violence against women remains a massive and systematic violation of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Despite legal advancements — comprehensive violence laws, the criminalization of femicide, reforms in criminal and civil codes — **violence rates, including lethal violence, remain high.** The region records a large number of femicide cases annually, along with a continued occurrence of physical, sexual, psychological, economic, and political violence. Gaps in access to justice, effective protection, and integrated services, as well as the persistence of patriarchal social norms, limit the impact of existing legal frameworks and create a permanent risk context for women's autonomy and full participation.

C6. In the area of economic autonomy and female entrepreneurship, the diagnosis shows a **strong dynamism among women entrepreneurs and an increase in initiatives focused on gender equality in the private sector** (WEPs, ISO gender equality standards, sustainability reports, regional incubation and acceleration programs). However, this dynamism coexists with significant obstacles to accessing financing, networks, technology, available time, and markets, resulting in **underfunded female entrepreneurship, concentrated in low-productivity sectors, and with fewer opportunities for scaling.** This scenario highlights the strategic potential of incorporating gender and diversity approaches into policies for productive development, innovation, and climate financing, as well as promoting female leadership and diversity in business governance.

C7. The analysis of the situation of **rural and indigenous women** is particularly relevant to the project. These women **are essential in food production, seed management, biodiversity conservation, and the transmission of traditional knowledge. However, they face the intersection of multiple inequalities:** poverty, structural racism, territorial exclusion, low land ownership, limited access to credit, technical assistance, and climate information technologies, as well as being underrepresented in decision-making spaces. At the same time, their community leadership and agroecological practices demonstrate that they **are key actors in adaptation and resilience. Therefore, their active participation and empowerment are a strategic focus for any agroclimatic innovation initiative.**

C8. The situation of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean is characterized by a contrast between high transformative potential and persistent structural gaps. Young people – particularly rural, indigenous, Afro-descendant youth, and those from urban marginalized sectors – face poverty, unemployment, informality, caregiving overload, discrimination, and exclusion from power spaces, despite having increasing levels of education and a strong willingness to undertake and innovate.

C9. In the field of climate governance, **progress at the COPs** (Gender Action Plans, agreements on just transitions, recognition of the non-neutrality of gender in climate change) and the adoption of REDD+ Strategies and NDCs with gender references open a window of opportunity to integrate the gender equality agenda with adaptation and mitigation policies. However, international commitments are still insufficiently translated into fully operational national and subnational policies, with budgets, disaggregated data, and gender-sensitive monitoring mechanisms

In summary …

The diagnosis highlights that gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean is a multidimensional phenomenon, rooted in socioeconomic, cultural, and institutional structures that reproduce the sexual division of labor, caregiving overload, violence, and the exclusion of women—particularly those in rural, indigenous, Afro-descendant, and impoverished areas. For the project "Agro-climatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean," these findings underscore the need to adopt a cross-cutting gender and intersectional approach, with specific goals and actions: focusing on women and vulnerable groups such as indigenous populations and youth as priority beneficiaries, ensuring their meaningful participation in the governance of the project, strengthening their techno-productive and leadership capacities, and promoting partnerships with institutions, gender mechanisms, and private sector actors committed to equality. Only in this way can the project effectively contribute not only to the climate resilience of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries systems, but also to the transformation of gender inequalities that condition the sustainability and justice of responses to climate change in the region.

17. Glossary

Economic Autonomy: Refers to women's ability to access, generate, and control their own income, assets, and productive, financial, and technological resources, as well as time and property. It takes into account the sexual division of labor and the unequal social organization of care (CEPAL).

Autonomy in Decision-Making: Refers to the full participation of women on equal terms in various areas of public and political life (CEPAL).

Physical Autonomy: Refers to the capacity of women, adolescents, and girls in their diversity, to live a life free from discrimination, harmful practices, and violence, and to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights in conditions that are conducive to doing so (CEPAL).

Autonomy: Refers to the ability of individuals to make free and informed decisions about their lives, enabling them to act according to their own aspirations and desires, in a historically conducive context. The autonomy of women and LGBTI+ individuals is often conceptualized in three dimensions (CEPAL).

Climate Change: Change directly or indirectly attributed to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and, in addition to natural climate variability, is observed over comparable time periods (MPAS[37], BID, 2020).

Care: In a broad sense, the concept of care refers to all the activities necessary to ensure the well-being and daily survival of individuals, involving material, economic, and emotional actions. It includes self-care, direct care of others, the preconditions for care (such as household cleaning, food shopping and preparation), and the management of care.

Sexual division of labor: The sexual division of labor refers to the differentiated allocation of productive and reproductive tasks based on gender, where women are typically responsible for unpaid domestic and caregiving work, while men predominately engage in paid labor and the public sphere. This division limits women's economic autonomy and reinforces structural inequalities. (CEPAL, 2019).

Gender empowerment: refers to expanding the rights, resources, and capabilities of people of all genders to make decisions and act independently in the social, political, and economic spheres. The term includes the empowerment of women and simultaneously considers aspects of human rights and the development of people of all genders, through the removal of the social, economic, and political barriers faced by marginalized gender groups. (MPAS, BID, 2020).

Gender stereotypes: are generalized and simplified beliefs about the characteristics, roles, and behaviors considered appropriate for women and men. These stereotypes limit individual freedoms, perpetuate discrimination, and reinforce inequalities in areas such as education, work, politics, and access to resources. (CEDAW Recomendación General Nº 28, 2010).

Gender: Gender refers to the roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women at a specific time. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female, and the relationships between women and men, and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relationships among women and among men. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are socially constructed and learned through the socialization process. They are context-specific and change over time. Gender determines what is expected, what is allowed, and what is valued in a woman or a man in a given context (UN Women).

Gender Identity: The internal perception a person has of themselves as a man, woman, or something different or intermediate. A person's gender identity may or may not align with their sex. Gender identity is subjective and is self-assigned by each individual (MPAS, IDB, 2020).

Gender Equality: It means that people of all genders enjoy the same conditions and opportunities to exercise their rights and reach their social, economic, political, and cultural potential. The Environmental and Social Policy Framework acknowledges that the pursuit of equality requires actions towards equity, which involves providing and distributing benefits or resources in a way that reduces existing gaps, recognizing that the

[37] BID Environmental and Social Policy Framework, 2020.

existence of such gaps can harm people of all genders. In contrast, gender inequality limits the ability of affected individuals to participate in the opportunities offered by the project and benefit from them, as well as to resist, cope with, and recover from any adverse impacts the projects may generate (MPAS, IDB, 2020).

Intersectionality: The way in which different identity categories interact with each other in society, such that one (e.g., race, ethnicity, disability) cannot be understood in isolation (e.g., gender identity). While some identities may be sources of exclusion, others can generate privilege. It is important to consider intersectionality, as some individuals are exposed to multiple forms of exclusion (MPAS, IDB, 2020)

Vulnerable persons or groups: Individuals or groups who may be more adversely affected by the project's impacts due to characteristics such as disability, health status, indigenous status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age, language, political or other opinions, national or social origin, heritage, birth, economic disadvantage, or social status. Other vulnerable persons or groups may include those in situations of vulnerability, including the poor, landless individuals, the elderly, single-parent households, refugees, internally displaced persons, communities dependent on natural resources, or other displaced persons who may not be protected by national legislation or international law (MPAS, IDB, 2020).

Gender perspective: The gender perspective refers to the practice of questioning stereotypes and highlighting the differences between men, women, and diverse groups that are perceived as "natural." It involves recognizing the historical and social origins of these differences and the power relations between genders. Adopting a gender perspective reflects the commitment to achieving real equality between men, women, and diverse groups (MOP, 2022).

Mainstreaming: This is the strategy through which a gender perspective is systematically incorporated into all policies, programs, budgets, regulations, and institutional processes, with the aim of ensuring that the needs, experiences, and contributions of women and men are considered equally. It involves modifying structures, practices, and organizational cultures to advance towards equality (ECOSOC, 1997).

Vulnerability: A condition determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes that makes a community more susceptible to the impact of threats (MPAS, IDB, 2020).

ANNEX IV. GENDER ACTION PLAN

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1. Introduction

The Gender Assessment provides the context and a general evaluation regarding gender dynamics, inequalities, and the current situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The AFCIA program promotes innovation for adaptation through the incubation and acceleration of science-community partnerships. In this context, the gender approach is not limited to participation but aims to ensure the effective inclusion of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples as leaders and co-creators of innovative solutions. This involves addressing differential barriers in access to knowledge, technology, scientific networks, resources for prototyping, and evaluation processes, ensuring that the regional innovation ecosystem is more equitable and diverse.

This Action Plan identifies the gender-sensitive actions that will be adopted during the implementation of the activities of the funding proposal in a cross-cutting manner. Additionally, specific indicators are proposed to measure and track these actions. In the project's initiation phase, this Action Plan will be reviewed and updated, including a timeline for its implementation.

2. Gender Inclusion Action Plan

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
Impact Statement: Strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems—with special attention to organizations and groups of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean—promoting the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes.				
Results Statement: Financial support provided to associated organizations/groups, women, youth, and Indigenous populations to co-design, test, and accelerate innovative adaptation solutions in vulnerable rural territories of LAC. Technical capacities of innovation developers and organizations, as well as women, youth, and Indigenous populations, strengthened to implement, validate, and scale adaptation solutions. Systematization, dissemination, and application of knowledge on innovation in climate change adaptation, generating opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and Indigenous populations, for the adoption, scaling, and replication of innovative solutions.				
Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC				
Output 1.1 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes.				
Activity 1.1.1 Identify and accelerate innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.				
Subactivity 1.1.1.1: Ensure access to information and participation of researchers, producers, women, Indigenous	- % of participation in launch webinars/call, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, age, and organizational affiliation (understood as community actors and institutional actors).	1st year (Month 1 to 9)	Gender Specialist FONTAGRO	USD 57,600

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
populations, and youth in the launch webinars. Observations: Adapt consultation processes (language, schedules, methodologies) to ensure accessibility.	Target: Community actors: At least 35% of the participants should be women, of which at least 10% should be Indigenous women and at least 20% should be young women. At least 65% should be men, of which at least 30% should be young men, and 10% should be Indigenous men. Institutional actors: At least 40% should be women, 60% men, of which 20% should be young men. - Adoption of the checklist to promote inclusive participation Target: 100% adopted. - Adaptation of calls for proposals to clear language, including specific guidelines to facilitate project applications focused on women, youth, and Indigenous populations. Target: 100%			
Subactivity 1.1.1.2: Develop differentiated technical assistance sessions for applicants with less familiarity with innovation processes.	- No. of differentiated technical assistance sessions conducted Target: at least 1 session per call for proposals.	1st year (Month 7 to 9)	Gender Specialist	
Subactivity 1.1.1.3: Use of gender and vulnerable group criteria for the prioritization of initiatives to be financed. Observations - Guidelines for application processes: The proposal should include the delivery of training and support in the exercise of leadership roles for rural	- Inclusion in the evaluation forms of an explicit criterion on female leadership and the substantive participation of women in technical and community roles, with a minimum weighting. Target: 100% of the criteria included in the evaluation forms. - Inclusion in the proposal forms: a) Gender analysis at the project level, and[1], y b) description of how the proposal incorporates inclusive practices in co-creation and innovation processes. Target: 100% of the proposal submission forms included. - Training for external evaluators on gender biases within competitive selection processes Target: 100% of evaluators trained.	1st Year (Month 10)	Gender Specialist	

[1] Apéndice 2. Guía para el análisis de género a nivel de proyectos.

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
women, indigenous women, and youth. The financed projects should benefit both men and women equally. The projects should identify the beneficiaries disaggregated by sex, indigenous population status, and/or age group.	- No. of projects funded focusing on women's groups, Indigenous populations, and youth groups Target: That at least 6 of the projects funded focus on women, 2 on youth, and 1 on Indigenous populations.			
Subactivity 1.1.1.4: Include parity targets in the steering committee and evaluation committee.	-% of women in the steering and selection/evaluation committee Target: at least 50% of the members should be women.	1st year (Month 1 to 10)	Gender Specialist FONTAGRO IICA CAF	
Subactivity 1.1.1.5: Increase access for women and vulnerable groups to financing and support for the incubation and/or acceleration of agricultural innovation initiatives.	-% of the funding allocated to science-community partnerships with female leadership and/or prioritized vulnerable groups. Target: at least 30% of the funding should be allocated to projects focused on women, 10% to projects focused on Indigenous populations, and 20% to projects focused on youth. - No. of technical assistance sessions on the mainstreaming of gender and intersectionality in selected projects. Target: at least 10 technical assistance sessions on the mainstreaming of gender and intersectionality conducted	1st year (Month 11 to 12) 2nd year (Month 13 to 24) 3rd year (Month 25 to 36)	Gender Specialist	
Component 2: Capacity building for women, Indigenous peoples, youth, and vulnerable groups involved in the supported innovation projects.				
Output 2.1: Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social approaches.				
Activity 2.1.1 Provide technical assistance to Science–Community Partnerships to strengthen capacities in climate change, innovation, and the management of environmental, social, and gender-related risks.				
Subactivity 2.1.1.1: Strengthening the capacities of science-community alliances with an intersectional approach.	-% of people trained, disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age. Target: At least 35% should be women, of which 20% are young women and 10% are indigenous. At least 65% should be men, of which 20% are young men and 10% are indigenous - No. of innovations focused on women.	1st Year (Month 11 to 12) 2nd Year (Month 13 to 24) 3rd Year (Month 25 to 36)	Gender Specialist	USD 61,600

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
	Target: At least 6 innovations should focus on women. - No. of training sessions delivered that include gender and interculturality content. Target: At least 3 training sessions should incorporate gender and interculturality content.			
Subactivity 2.1.1.2: Training and technical assistance actions aimed at strengthening the exercise of leadership and management roles under the gender and interculturality approach in science-community alliances.	-Nro. of training sessions and/or technical assistance in the exercise of leadership roles for prioritized vulnerable groups. Target: At least 2 training sessions/technical assistance conducted. - No. of people trained, disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, age, institutional role, and place of origin. Target: At least 200 people trained, disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age .	1st Year (Month 11 to 12) 2nd Year (Month 13 to 24) 3rd Year (Month 25 to 36)	Gender Specialist	
Subactivity 2.1.1.3: Incorporate childcare services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory events.	- No. of activities offering care services. Target: At least 20 activities with care services offered. - No. of participants using care services, disaggregated by sex, indigenous population, and youth. Target: At least 80 participants using care services, disaggregated by sex, indigenous population, and youth.	1st Year (Month 11 to 12) 2nd Year (Month 13 to 24) 3rd Year (Month 25 to 36) 4th Year (Month 37 to 48)	Gender Specialist	
Component 3: Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation with a gender and intersectional perspective.				
Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated				
Activity 3.1.1: Monitoring and generation of evidence on the innovation process and outcomes of innovation projects with a gender and intersectional perspective.				
Subactivity 3.1.1.1: Mainstream the gender approach in the monitoring system.	- Indicators of beneficiary individuals disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, and territory Target: 100%	1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Year (Month 1 to 48)	Gender Specialist Program Coordinator and Innovation Specialist	USD 28,800

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
Subactivity 3.1.1.2: Participatory instances, innovation sessions, exchange of experiences, and coordination of goods, services, and knowledge between science-community alliances and other institutions linked to the project.	-- Measures to ensure gender equity and social inclusion in participatory instances, innovation sessions, experience exchange actions, and coordination between beneficiary organizations and associated groups (e.g., consensus on activity schedules considering caregiving tasks, appropriate and relevant communication methods for the participating population, childcare support, ensuring accessibility to events). Target: 100% of the measures adopted. - No. of participants, disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age. Target: At least 84 women, of which 16 are young women and 8 are indigenous women. And 156 men, of which 46 are young men and 15 are indigenous men.	4th Year (Month 38 to 48)	Gender Specialist	
Subactivity 3.1.1.3: Empowerment and dissemination of successful experiences and cases developed by science-community alliances in the area of climate adaptation and resilience.	- No. of successful science-community alliances led by women, indigenous populations, and youth documented and disseminated. Target: At least 1 successful science-community alliance led by women, indigenous populations, and/or youth is documented/disseminated.	4th Year (Month 44 to 48)	Gender Specialist	
Subactivity 3.1.1.4: Develop policy briefs, strategic documents, and presentations with a gender and interculturality approach aimed at decision-makers, based on the evidence generated by the Project, to facilitate their dissemination in dialogue tables, technical events, and the FONTAGRO Annual Meeting, in order to promote the adoption of gender recommendations in policies, programs, and institutional agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean.	- No. of policy briefs with recommendations on gender, youth, and interculturality published and disseminated. Target: 100% of the policy briefs with recommendations on gender, youth, and interculturality have been published and disseminated. -No. of gender recommendations shared/integrated into dialogue spaces (e.g., FONTAGRO Annual Meeting). Target: 100% of gender recommendations have been integrated into policy dialogue tables.	4th Year (Month 44 to 48)	Gender Specialist	
Activity 3.1.2: Communication and dissemination of results for the scaling up and replication of successful experiences with a gender and intersectional perspective.				

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
Subactivity 3.1.2.1: Ensure that all information, communication, and verbal or written announcements consider neutrality and inclusion regarding gender equity and equality. For this purpose, a checklist will be applied to verify whether a message, text, or communication product incorporates a gender approach and contributes to making the role of women and men visible on equal terms. Observations: suggested document: Guide for the Use of Gender-Inclusive Language, UN Women	- Protocol for managing language, image, and dissemination of gender-sensitive information. Target: There is a protocol for managing language, image, and dissemination of gender-sensitive information. -No. of communication pieces and audiovisual content generated with a gender-sensitive approach. Target: 100% of the communication pieces have used the protocol for managing language, image, and dissemination of gender-sensitive information.	1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Year (Month 1 to 48)	Gender Specialist Communication Consultant	USD 34,200

Appendix 1. Considerations to promote inclusive participation

Below is a checklist to consider practical aspects when organizing and developing participatory instances. It is designed to facilitate the participation of women, indigenous populations, youth, older adults, and vulnerable groups.

Considerations for organizing and developing participatory instances	YES/NO	Strategies
1. **Care spaces**		Ensure logistics for childcare spaces during in-person events in order to facilitate the participation of women and adults responsible for the care of minors.
2. **Convenient timing** to facilitate greater participation		Inquire about the preferred timings of the participants Consider the times for picking up minors from educational institutions
3. **Call for participation with a gender perspective**		Use inclusive language Invite women's organizations, indigenous populations, and youth groups Recommend that, if more than one person participates from an institution, efforts be made to ensure representation from different groups (gender, ethnicity, age groups)
4. **Event accessibility**		The location where the activity takes place is not accessible for people with disabilities or older adults. Public transportation or easily accessible transport options Connectivity for virtual instances.
5. **Gender-sensitive facilitation**		The participation of women, indigenous peoples, youth, and other vulnerable groups is promoted. The monopolization of the discussion by the same groups should be avoided. If necessary, exclusive workspaces may be created for women or other vulnerable groups.
6. **Presentations in webinars/workshops/ meetings**		Promote the use of non-stereotypical and non-sexist images of women and men: - Maintain a balanced proportion of images of men and women - The images should show men and women in all types of productive activities, not just those that are more socially accepted.
7. **Systematization of participatory events/instances**		Data disaggregated by gender and age group in: ● Attendance register ● Event report ● Photographic record

8. Others?		

Appendix 2. Gender analysis at the project level

Gender analysis is a systematic process used to identify gender inequalities within the scope of a project. To achieve this, it is proposed to conduct an analysis of the needs and experiences of women and men, aiming to understand the causes of these inequalities (identification of gender gaps).

Below, a series of questions are proposed to guide the analysis[2].

Areas in which inequalities are expressed	Questions that help verify whether we have considered these dimensions
The sexual division of labor and the different normative gender roles	Do we identify these differences when addressing the issues?
Control and violence over the bodies of women and LGBTI+	Do we consider in our analysis and interventions the aspects related to physical autonomy, the different forms of violation, and their effects, in relation to the identified issues?
The time use of women, men, and LGBTI	Do we consider the different uses of time to characterize and interpret the problems we are planning for? Do we take them into account when ensuring the equitable participation of women, men, and LGBTI+ individuals in participatory planning processes?
The access and control over resources, benefits, and services by women, men, and LGBT+ individuals.	Do we take into account information to consider the different degrees of access to and control over resources?
The participation of women, men, and LGBTI+ people in public and private spaces	Do we take into account the differences in participation and influence in decision-making regarding the issues we identify? Do the actions we design consider the different experiences of women, men, and LGBTI+ individuals regarding the resources related to the issues addressed?
Intersectionality	What other factors combine with gender, influencing the situation of women, men, and LGBTI+ individuals? For example: What is the difference in the lives of women, girls, and LGBTI+ individuals from the majority ethnic group? What is the difference in the lives of women and girls with disabilities compared to those without? What is the difference in the lives of men and boys with disabilities compared to those without? What is the difference between the lives of women and LGBTI+ individuals who have access to economic and symbolic resources and those who do not? What is the difference between the lives of older people and younger people?

[2] La perspectiva de género y diversidad en la política climática argentina. Sector agro y bosques, MAyDS, PNUD, GCF, 2023. Disponible en: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_agro_1.pdf

A matrix is also presented as a checklist with the most relevant aspects to consider for the inclusion of the gender approach in the project formulation phase.

The matrix is answered using "Yes," "No," or "Na/Ns" (Not applicable/Don't know); it can be completed by the project team (science-community partnership) with specific questions that arise from the context/scenario of the project implementation. Some of the questions have been selected from the "Climate Change and Family Farming with a Gender Lens" Guide.

Matrix for evaluating the inclusion of the gender approach in the project formulation phase.		YES	NO	Na/Ns
Applicable Legal and Institutional Framework	Was a comprehensive study conducted on applicable legislation and national commitments regarding gender, citizen participation, and environmental and social assessments?			
	Have policies or regulations that exacerbate gender inequality and may be obstacles to achieving the project's goals been identified (e.g., regulations on land ownership or requirements for receiving financial aid)?			
	Have governmental and non-governmental gender institutions and organizations been identified? Will it be necessary to seek specialized technical assistance on gender issues?			
Technical Team	Has the project team received any type of gender training or awareness-raising?			
	Are there individuals with the knowledge and sensitivity to guide the implementation of activities with a gender approach?			
Stakeholder Mapping and Gender Analysis	Were the different stakeholders in the project identified and characterized with disaggregated information by sex, age, and ethnicity? Were existing information gaps identified?			
	Were those stakeholders working, or potentially working, on gender issues in the various aspects affecting the project identified and invited?			
	Does the gender analysis include, in addition to the different roles in the community, their specific vulnerabilities and strengths, possible contributions, and knowledge of gender issues and climate resilience? Does it also include an analysis of the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding climate resilience and gender?			
Perception and Knowledge about Gender and Climate Change	Have participatory spaces been organized where men and women from the community can express their perceptions and knowledge about climate change? Has information been gathered about the actions and knowledge the community possesses and applies regarding the effects of climate change?			
	Has emphasis been placed on how women, men, and children can be equal participants and agents of change in climate change adaptation and mitigation?			
	Have these spaces been organized in a way that encourages women's participation (considering schedules, locations, etc.)? Has the need for gender-specific calls for participation been assessed?			
	Are the knowledge and skills of women (especially) and men in various areas of agricultural production (land, water, etc.) taken into account?			
	Does the initiative promote activities that lead to positive changes in the economic and social situation of women?			
	Could the project's actions increase the risk of domestic violence against women?			
Participatory Design	Is it planned that the call for participation will be inclusive of women and men from all sectors and thematic areas of the project?			

Matrix for evaluating the inclusion of the gender approach in the project formulation phase.		YES	NO	Na/Ns
	Do the subtopics with specific gender dimensions (resource management, water, vulnerability to climate variability, risk management) address gender issues as separate areas?			
	Have the differences between various genders and ages of participants been considered in the planning of actions?			
	Are there both women and men on the work team, including in fieldwork? Is there an equitable distribution of hierarchies?			
	Are there knowledge gaps that limit the efficiency or quality of women-led production?			
	Is there a difference in the production levels or conditions of Indigenous families?			
Mitigation and Adaptation	Have gender roles, time burdens, and education levels been considered when evaluating technological needs?			
	Has an analysis been conducted on where and how gender roles can be questioned to support equality in the introduction of new technologies?			
	Have technological solutions or alternatives been sought together with women, men, and other vulnerable groups, to identify technological substitutes or adapt existing technologies to their needs?			
	Do women and men have the same capacity to access/purchase new technologies? Do women and youth have access to the necessary resources for the economic activity they wish to undertake?			
	Has the participation of grassroots women producers' groups (from different ethnicities and/or ages) been included in discussions for identifying local adaptation measures and best agricultural practices?			
	Are access and control over resources (information, financial capital, skills, etc.) considered for both women and men?			
	Do women have access to extension services or training to improve their skills and products?			
Decision-Making	Has the commitment to equitable participation of women and men throughout the project and its benefits been confirmed with all stakeholders (implementers, partners, beneficiaries, scientific institutions, etc.)?			
	Has it been ensured that there are equitable opportunities for capacity building and budgets to support participation, decision-making, and benefits for both men and women?			
	Do women have sufficient knowledge of management or accounting to handle their businesses?			
	Does the project include training opportunities for women and men (from different age groups), considering their different responsibilities, needs, and skills?			
	Are there social or cultural barriers that prevent women from working (temporarily or permanently) in economic activities?			
Access to Financing	Do women and men have bank accounts?			
	Do women and men have access to formal credit to support economic activities under this project?			
	Are there financial instruments specifically dedicated to supporting women?			
Monitoring and Evaluation	Is the information for M&E planned to be disaggregated by sex, age, and age group?			