



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.37/Inf.12
16 March 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-seventh Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 7-8 April 2026

PROPOSAL FOR TANZANIA (4)



ADAPTATION FUND

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

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Regular-sized Project Concept

Country/Region: United Republic of Tanzania

Project Title: Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA)

Thematic Focal Area: Ecosystem restoration and management

Implementing Entity: National Environmental Management Council (NEMC)

Executing Entities: NEMC and Local Government Authorities (Kilimanjaro-Same District Council, Mbeya -Mbeya City Council and Mara-Butiama District Council)

AF Project ID: AF00000472

IE Project ID:

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 13,000,000

Reviewer and contact person: Alexandra Munoz

Co-reviewer(s):

IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary

The project Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA) aim to reduce vulnerability and exposure of communities and ecosystems in Tanzania’s mountain districts to climate-induced landslides, floods, and erosion through ecosystem-based adaptation, strengthened local adaptive capacity, and climate-resilient livelihoods. This will be done through the five components below:

Component 1: Mountain Ecosystem-Based Hazards Prevention (USD 3,234,532);

Component 2: Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems (USD 2,564,700);

Component 3: Community and LGA Awareness and Capacity Building (including community-based hazard alert mechanisms) (USD1,358,900).

Component 4: Livelihood Diversification (including Clean Cooking Solutions) (USD 3,234,500).

Component 5: Knowledge Management, M&E, and Policy Integration (USD 1,425,550).

Requested financing overview:

Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 1,004,545

Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 11,818,182

Implementing Fee: USD 177,273

Financing Requested: USD 13,000,000

	<p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD 150,000.</p> <p>The initial technical review raised several issues, such as the lack climate rationale, and a theory of change, clarity on duplication and synergy with other projects and on compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund, results framework alignment, modifications to PFG request and compliance with the template requirement of the Adaptation Fund as discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The second technical review raised several issues, such as the lack of an Initial Gender Analysis and a Theory of Change diagram, clarity of the proposed project against the AF's ESP, SMART outcome and output indicators, as discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The third technical review raises several issues, such as lack of compliance with the 15 principles of the AF ESP policy, the lack of an Initial Gender Analysis and a Theory of Change diagram, specific information about the benefits of the proposed project, layout and format issues, as discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The fourth technical review raises several issues, such as the lack of a proper identification of risks against the 15 AF ESP principles, the need for more information regarding the desktop Gender Analysis, a clear explanation of the roles of NEMC and local governments as executing agencies, among others, as discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudge the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
Date:	February 26, 2026

Review Criteria	Questions	First Technical Review Comments 12 November, 2025	Second Technical Review Comments December 17, 2025	Third Technical Review Comments January 23, 2026	Fourth Review Comments February 26, 2026
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol, and/or the Paris Agreement?	Yes.	-	-	-
	2. Is the country a developing country	Yes.	-	-	-

	particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	The country is exposed to erratic rainfall and escalating climate variability. Communities face chronic vulnerability to climate shocks, with landslides and erosion destroying homes, farms, and basic infrastructure, leading to food insecurity, reduced income, and increased poverty.			
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	Yes. In a letter dated August, 08 2025, pages 43-44.	-	-	-
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?	Yes. General note: 1. Kindly label all the tables for easier reference. Note reference is made to missing tables. 2. Also ensure that the pages are aligned so that the margins are established e.g. See pages 2 and 3 for amendments.	Yes. The concept note is 51 pages in total, including the annexes. CAR1(NEW): Please update the stage of submission by checking the re-submitted previously box and entering the last date of submission of the proposal. General notes: Not Cleared. 1. Some tables (for example, in Part II.H) are missing numbering in the titles. 2. Please review the format, margins, text	No. The concept note is 54 pages in total, including the annexes. CAR1(NEW): Not cleared. The stage of submission was updated in the Clean version of the concept note, but not in the Track changes version. Please address and use the last submission date when submitting next. General notes1 (NEW): 1. Please ensure that the <i>clean and track</i>	Yes. The concept note is 53 pages in total, including the annexes and the PFG form. *The track changes version is the base for all the comments* CAR1(NEW): Cleared. The stage of submission has been updated correctly. General notes1 (NEW): 1. Not cleared. Both versions do not appear to be

			<p>alignment, table format, and other layout elements to improve the overall quality of the document.</p>	<p><i>changes versions</i> are consistent in future submissions. For example, while the “<i>Stage of Submission</i>” box is appropriately checked in the clean version, it is not checked in the track changes version.</p> <p>2. Please ensure that the number of tables is sequential. The track changes version is missing Table 2.</p> <p>3. Please ensure that the lettering of the titles follows a sequential order. After title B, title C should follow, and so on.</p> <p>General notes:</p> <p>1. Cleared. All tables are numbered throughout the document.</p> <p>2. Not Cleared. Please review and edit all layout elements to improve</p>	<p>consistent. The clean version has a total of 47 pages, while the track-changes version with no markup has 53 pages.</p> <p>2. Cleared. Lettering of the titles follows a sequential order.</p> <p>General notes:</p> <p>2. Not cleared. Principal elements have been amended. However, please remove: (i) the title “Annex 5 to OPG Amended in October 2017” from the Header, (ii) the highlighting in the PFG form, (iii) blank row from Table 1. (iv) template instructions, for example, the ones above Table 1.</p> <p>In addition, please amend the Amount of Financing Requested from “13m USD” to</p>
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				the overall quality of the document (for example, the margins of Tables 1 and 5).	“13,000,000 USD” on the cover page of the proposal.
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<p>Unsure</p> <p>The concept outlined some economic, social and environmental context but there is no clear and evidence-based climate rationale.</p> <p>The concept includes a set of activities suited to address the climate impacts identified. The project components are structured to meet each specific objectives: To stabilize landslide-prone areas through nature-based solutions; To restore degraded ecosystems to enhance ecosystem services; To strengthen community and institutional capacities to manage climate risks, including early hazard alert systems; To diversify green local livelihoods, including uptake of clean cooking solutions; To integrate lessons and evidence into national and subnational adaptation policies. However, not every output has a corresponding activity.</p> <p>CAR1: Please revise proposal to establish a stronger, evidence-based climate rationale that clearly links observed and</p>	<p>CAR1: Not cleared. Please review the proposal and revise the general and specific objectives to ensure stronger vertical logic. The proposed project should focus on a specific issue rather than attempting to address all climate change impacts on the community. The objectives should clearly articulate the direction of the intervention. The vertical logic should explicitly link observed</p>	<p>CAR1: Cleared. As per information in Part II.A, pages 7-8. General and specific objectives were updated to provide stronger vertical logic.</p> <p>CR1: Not cleared. The proposal includes a description of the component activities, and a Theory of Change (ToC) now includes the general problem, the determinants of that problem. However, please include in the ToC narrative the assumptions, risks, and solutions, and ensure that the problem is linked to the general objective and the determinants to the specific objectives. Please also include a ToC diagram.</p>	<p>CR1: Cleared. As per information provided in Part II.A, section a “Theory of Change” and Figure 1. The proposal includes a Theory of Change (ToC) narrative and diagram robust and align with adaptation objectives.</p> <p>CAR2: Cleared. As per information provided in Part II.A, section a “Theory of Change” and Figure 1. ToC Narrative clearly states how the project activities would lead to substantial, tangible outcomes.</p> <p>CAR2(NEW): Not cleared.</p>

		<p>projected impacts to the proposed interventions.</p> <p>CR1: Kindly include and elaborate all the activities under each corresponding output in table on page 3. Note the activities listed in this table should be reflected in the section Part II: Project/Programme Justification. The Theory of Change will help to ensure those activities are linked to the corresponding outputs. Refer to CAR1</p> <p>The proposal however lacks a theory of change.</p> <p>CAR2: Please revise the proposal to demonstrate a clear theory of change that links the proposed activities to the identified climate threats. Specifically, there should be evidence that the activities are appropriately designed to address the outlined climate scenarios. The logical pathway from the interventions to the desired outcomes given the climate risks should be clearly articulated. Kindly consider a Theory of Change (and its diagram) structure that use the form of “IF’ ‘THEN’” statements. This would clearly state how the project activities would lead to substantial tangible outcomes.</p>	<p>and projected impacts to the proposed actions.</p> <p>CR1: Not cleared. While the proposal includes a description of the component activities, it would benefit from adding more specific details. Please include in the Theory of Change (ToC) the general problem that the proposed project aims to address, to clearly identify the general objective. Then, the ToC should outline the determinants of that problem (its root causes), which will help define the specific objectives and activities as solutions. Kindly accompany the explanation with a ToC diagram.</p> <p>CAR2: Not cleared. Please see CR1. This would clearly state how the project activities would lead to substantial tangible outcomes.</p>	<p>CAR2: Not cleared. Please see CR1. In the ToC Narrative, include a concluding paragraph at the end that clearly states how the project activities would lead to substantial, tangible outcomes.</p> <p>CAR2(NEW): Not cleared. Please confirm if the proposal contains USP’s using the definitions in the AF policy Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects. While it is stated that “While target areas are identified at concept stage, the precise siting and configuration of specific ecosystem restoration, slope stabilization, and livelihood interventions will be finalized during the Project Formulation Grant (PFG) and full proposal stage”</p>	<p>The following has been added under Part II.E: “<i>IMERCA is designed to effectively utilise Unidentified Subprojects (USPs) where necessary and required in line with the Adaptation Fund’s Guidance on Projects/Programmes involving such initiatives. All USPs will undergo thorough screening in accordance with the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy, using standardised safeguard screening tools throughout the PFG and implementation phases. Additionally, the project will develop and implement tailored Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Gender Action Plans (GAPs), and grievance redress mechanisms, as needed, to ensure comprehensive compliance and community engagement.</i>”</p>
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	<p>CAR3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is recommended to use the Adaptation Fund template, under section “<i>Project/Programme Components and Financing</i>”. The table only requires: Project/Programme Components, Expected Concrete Outputs, and Expected Outcomes, and Amount. 2. Please ensure that all figures are rounded and that decimals are not used for budget figures throughout the document. 3. Project programme execution costs are listed twice please amend to remove the row that attempts to list the components of the execution costs as this is not required at concept stage. <p>CR2: Please also clarify some of the Outputs. For example, “80 green MSME supported” should specify the nature of support.</p> <p>CR3: It is unclear how input women’s groups and youth were incorporated into project design, given no reference in outputs.</p>	<p>CAR2(NEW): Please confirm if the proposal contains USPs as per the AF policy Guidance Document for Project/Programme with Unidentified Sub-Projects. Currently the main communities are identified, however, the proposal does not give an indication of what will be done where as it seems some of the activities per community are still to be determined. Please provide additional information to strengthen this element.</p> <p>CR1 (NEW): Please strengthen the <i>adaptation rationale</i> for cookstoves under the Narrative under Component 4 in Part II Section A as well as under Part II section B</p> <p>CAR3:Not Cleared</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not Cleared. <u>Table does not comply with the template as it has 2 project execution lines, 1 as fees and</u> 	<p>Please explicitly state that USPs form part of the proposed project and provide strong justification for their use in Part II.B and insert a sentence on how the ESP risks will be addressed for the USPs at table in the tracked changed version. Please note that Table 7 needs to be revised to conform to the fund template requirements.</p> <p>CR1 (NEW): Cleared. As per information in Part II.B, page 11. A description of how clean cooking contributes as an adaptation measure and helps reduce reliance on fuelwood is included.</p> <p>CAR3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not Cleared. <u>Table does not comply with the template as it has 2 project execution lines, 1 as fees and 1 under components.</u> 	<p>However, please include under Part II.A a <u>sound justification</u> for the use of USPs, in accordance with the AF Guidance Document, as their use is intended for specific situations.</p> <p>CAR3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleared. As per information provided in Table 1. Table format has been amended accordingly. 2. Cleared. As per information provided in Table 1. The total financing amount does not contain decimals. 3. Cleared. As per information provided in Table 1. Table format has been amended accordingly. <p>CAR3 (NEW): Please present the budget at output level Table 1. Project Components and Financing</p>
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	<p>CAR4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please amend the project timelines. With a PFG request it is not likely that the project will commence in July 2026. 2. Please also amend the timelines in the PFG request form. 3. Please ensure that the PFG request form also includes a separate IE fee line item (maximum allowed in 8.5%). 4. Please ensure that the ESMP, gender assessment and Gender Action Plan also form part of PFG implementation if needed as these are required to be submitted with the full proposal document. 	<p><u>1</u> under components.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Not Cleared. The total financing amount still contains decimals. 3. Not Cleared. - see comment on CAR 3(1). <p>CR2: Not cleared. Please ensure that the outputs are specific and include a numerical target. For example, Output 2.1.3 "Train community groups, women's associations, youth groups, and pastoralist networks in restoration practices and ecosystem stewardship", should specific the estimated number of people to be trained.</p> <p>CR3: Cleared. As per information in Outputs: 3.1, 4.2, and the sections: Beneficiary Identification, Targeting and prioritization criteria, Disaggregation</p>	<p>2. Not Cleared. The total financing amount still contains decimals. It should be stated as "13,000,000" instead of "13,000.000.00".</p> <p>3. Not Cleared. see comment on CAR3(1).</p> <p>CR2: Not cleared. Please ensure that the outputs are specific and include a numerical target.</p> <p>CAR4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not cleared. Please also amend the timelines in the PFG request form. For example, starting date it shows as December 2025. In addition, please clarify whether the NEMC is the implementing or executing entity. 2. Not cleared. 	<p>by inserting additional rows for in the grant amount column e.g. Output 1.1: High-risk Mountain slopes identified and climate-informed hazard prevention measures implemented \$X.</p> <p>CAR4 (NEW): Please make sure that the outputs identified in the components financing table reflect the outputs reflected in the components description as they currently do not match.</p> <p>CR2: Not cleared. Please ensure that the outputs are specific and include a numerical target in Table 1 and in the narrative of the project's components.</p> <p>CAR4:</p>
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			<p>approach, Gender Analysis and Gender-Responsive Strategy, and Key gender and social vulnerability findings (pages 15-16).</p> <p>CAR4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleared. As per information in Projected calendar. 2. Not cleared. Please also amend the timelines in the PFG request form. No adjusted PFG request form was included in the submission. 3. Not cleared. Please ensure that the PFG request form also includes a separate IE fee line item. No adjusted PFG request form was included in the submission. 4. Not cleared. Please ensure that the ESMP, gender assessment and Gender Action Plan also form part of PFG implementation if needed as these are required to be submitted with the 	<p>Please include a separate IE fee line item in the PFG request form.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Not cleared. The ESMP, gender assessment, and Gender Action Plan should also form part of the PFG implementation, if required, as they are mandatory components of the full proposal submission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleared. As per the information provided in the PFG form. Timelines in the PFG request form have been amended. Current start date is May 1, 2026. NEMC will perform as the implementing and executing entity. 2. Cleared. As per the information provided in the PFG form. The PFG form now includes a separate IE fee line item. 3. Not cleared. While the CN states that the ESMP, the gender assessment, and the Gender Action Plan will be part of the actions to be executed through the PFG form, the form only explicitly includes the development of a "Gender Analysis." Please explicitly include the ESMP and the Gender Action Plan in the PFG form.
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			<p>full proposal document. No adjusted PFG request form was included in the submission.</p>		
	<p>4. Does the project / programme 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?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>However further clarification is needed. The proposal outlines benefits in all three areas (economic, social and environmental). Co-benefits to vulnerable communities and groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities are projected.</p> <p>CAR5: Kindly include a summary in Part section B of the number of direct and estimated indirect beneficiaries of the project.</p> <p>CR4: Table 3 shows how women and youth benefit from Component 4 on clean cooking. Please clarify whether vulnerable groups will also benefit from the other components.</p> <p>CR5: Please ensure that the gender and youth inclusion lens are consistent across components. For example, what percentage of women will benefit from skills development</p> <p>CR6: In some cases, the benefits are vague e.g. "community</p>	<p>CAR5: Not cleared. Kindly include in Table 3 all beneficiaries, disaggregated into direct and indirect, as for gender and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>CR4: Not cleared. Please refer to CAR5.</p> <p>CR5: Not cleared. Please ensure that the gender and youth inclusion lens are consistent across components. Please see CAR5.</p> <p>CR6: Not cleared. Benefits should be clearly stated and specific. For example, expand on how clean cooking helps reduce reliance on biomass fuels, and so on. Please ensure this for</p>	<p>CAR5: Not cleared. Kindly include in Table 3 all beneficiaries, disaggregated into direct and indirect, as for gender and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>CR4: Not cleared. Please refer to CAR5.</p> <p>CR5: Not cleared. Please ensure consistency in the gender and youth inclusions across all components (e.g., disaggregating the percentage of women and/or youth people benefiting from skills development).</p> <p>CR6: Not cleared.</p>	<p>CAR5: Cleared. As per information provided in Part II.B and Table 3. Beneficiaries have been identified and disaggregated into direct and indirect, as for gender and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>CR4: Cleared. As per information provided in Part II.B and Table 3.</p> <p>CR5: Cleared. As per information provided in Part II.B and Table 3. The details of the beneficiaries only appear in Table 3.</p> <p>CR6: Cleared. As per information provided in Part II.B. The CN now includes</p>

		<p>empowerment”, please specify the nature of the empowerment.</p> <p>CAR6: Consultations are said to have had gender-sensitive facilitation however no initial gender assessment is given. Kindly include an initial gender analysis to determine the different needs, capabilities, roles and knowledge resources of women and men, and/or identify how changing gender dynamics might drive lasting change.</p>	<p>all social and environmental benefits.</p> <p>CAR6: Not cleared. Although consultations reportedly included gender-sensitive facilitation, no initial gender assessment is provided. Please include an initial gender analysis to identify the different needs, capabilities, roles, and knowledge resources by gender, and to assess how evolving gender dynamics might contribute to lasting change.</p>	<p>While more information is provided in the Social and in the Environmental Benefits sections, it remains too general, and no evidence from experience in other contexts or from research is provided to substantiate the expected benefits or explain how they were calculated. Please provide this information for all benefit categories.</p> <p>CAR6: Not cleared. While it is stated that “A <i>detailed gender assessment and Gender Action Plan will be developed during the PFG phase</i>”, the concept note should include at least desktop research to include the different needs, capabilities, roles, and knowledge resources by gender, as an Initial Gender Analysis.</p>	<p>for each benefit category (economic, social, and environmental), evidence from experience in other contexts or from research to substantiate the expected benefits.</p> <p>CAR6: Not cleared. While the desktop research for the Initial Gender Analysis is now provided, highlighting the different roles, needs, and capabilities by gender, please include statistics where possible to illustrate the gaps for each of the six key findings. Please note that this analysis should be further expanded at the Full Proposal Stage.</p>
	5. Is the project / programme cost effective?	<p>Yes. The proposal provides a logical explanation of the selected project scope and approach. Alternative interventions are</p>	-	-	<p>CAR5 (NEW): In the re-submission of the concept please indicate the cost effectiveness of this</p>

		given to demonstrate cost effectiveness from a sustainability point of view.			specific project approach over one or two alternative scenarios. The section as presented is general and does not any present any specific comparison. <u>More detailed analyses including quantitative comparison of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed measures with alternative adaptation measures is needed in the fully developed proposal.</u>
	6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?	Yes. As per Section, page 12-16, the proposal has outlined the international, continental, regional and national frameworks and strategies including the NDC and the NAPA; and lists the relevant SDGs to be strengthened through the project intervention.	-	-	-
	7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in	Yes. However more information is required.	CAR7: Not cleared.	CAR7: Not cleared.	CAR7: Not cleared. While Table 7 includes a table listing of all relevant national/local technical standards

	<p>compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>The project is aligned with the relevant national technical standards and regulations on environment as most of the activities are environmentally related.</p> <p>CAR7: Please ensure during the PFG, that proposal is clear regarding the relevant rules and regulations and standards required for each expected intervention and note the authorising office.</p>	<p>Kindly provide a comprehensive table listing of all specific national/local technical standards applicable to the proposed project. These include SME, environment, energy efficiency, among others. The columns in the table should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) specific name/number of the standard/regulation, (ii) goals/objectives, (iii) how it is related to the proposed project and the project's compliance status. <p>In the case that compliance is required, please include the steps taken to comply with it and authorization/clearance granted for the implementation of the project.</p>	<p>While Table 5 (pages 23-24) is included to provide a table listing of all specific national/local technical standards applicable to the proposed project, the information is not comprehensive.</p> <p>Please include for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) specific name/number of the standard/regulation. Avoid identifying them as “<i>Local Government Planning Regulations</i>”, instead use the specific regulations to comply with it. The standards list should be <u>comprehensive</u>, including all relevant sectors for this project. (ii) goals and general objective. (iii) how it is related to the proposed project (indicating the specific outcome and/or output 	<p>applicable to the proposed project, the information is <u>not comprehensive</u>.</p> <p>Please ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The standards list should be <u>comprehensive</u>, including all <u>relevant sectors</u> for this project. • how it is related to the proposed project (indicating the specific outcome and/or output related to this). • project's compliance status, including the specific but brief <u>steps taken to comply with</u>.
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				<p>related to this) and the project's compliance status, including the steps taken to comply with.</p> <p>(iv) authorization/clearance granted for the implementation of the project.</p>	
	<p>8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?</p>	<p>Unclear.</p> <p>The concept states that there is no duplication at the site however similar projects exists in other sites. There is a reference to a table 4 that shows related projects but there is no table on this is included.</p> <p>CAR8: Please identify all relevant projects operating at both national and sub-national levels. Provide a comprehensive overview of how this project connects with and complements existing or planned initiatives that may have overlapping objectives or activities. Your response should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas where projects overlap or complement each other 2. Lessons incorporated from these initiatives during project design 3. Insights gained from challenges or shortcomings 	<p>CAR8: Not cleared. Kindly include a comprehensive table listing all national and sub-national projects that are or have been implemented in the selected districts and are related to the proposed project. For each, please include the following details:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Project title, (ii) Main project interventions, (iii) Timeline and specific location within the country, (iv) Target population, (v) Implementing entity, 	<p>CAR8: Not cleared. While Table 6 is included to show information on related projects and potential synergies, the information and the list are not comprehensive. Please include for each:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Project title (ii) Main project interventions (iii) Timeline and specific location within the country (iv) Target population, (v) Implementing entity (vi) Lessons learned 	<p>CAR8: Not cleared. While Table 8 now includes all the required columns, the information provided is too broad and the list of projects does not seem to be comprehensive. Please ensure in Table 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of overlap should be <u>clearly justified</u> for each related project identified. This should be explained by, for example, differences in interventions or locations. For instance, you may use wording such as: <i>“There is no overlap because the two projects focus</i>

		<p>encountered in similar projects</p> <p>4. A proposed coordination framework for implementation</p> <p>Consider presenting this information in a table format for clarity.</p> <p>CR7: Please explain how this project will collaborate with and complement the following initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> GCF-UNHCR Climate Resilience Project (USD 24M) – Building climate resilience in Kigoma region landscapes, Tanzania. Describe the key lessons learned and potential synergies with this project, particularly regarding its village-based ecosystem adaptation approach. World Bank Community-Led Nature-Based Solutions Project (USD 2.6M) – Promoting climate change adaptation in the Usangu Catchment. Highlight synergies related to reforestation efforts and expanding access to safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene services. World Bank SCALE Program (USD 227M) – Scaling-Up Locally Led Climate Action Program. 	<p>(vi) Lessons learned (if applicable)</p> <p>(vii) Overlaps and synergies with the proposed project.</p> <p>The lack of overlap should be clearly justified (e.g. by indicating the distinct geographic locations and/or types of interventions) for each related project identified.</p> <p>CR7: Not cleared. Please explain how this project will collaborate with and complement the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCF-UNHCR Climate Resilience Project (USD 24M) World Bank Community-Led Nature-Based Solutions Project (USD 2.6M) World Bank SCALE Program (USD 227M) 	<p>(vii) Overlaps and synergies.</p> <p>The lack of overlap should be clearly justified for each related project identified.</p> <p>CR7: Not cleared. Please explain how this project will collaborate with and what lessons learned come from the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCF-UNHCR Climate Resilience Project (USD 24M) World Bank Community-Led Nature-Based Solutions Project (USD 2.6M) World Bank SCALE Program (USD 227M) <p>If applicable, please include in the Table according to CAR8.</p>	<p>on different interventions. The identified related project carried out XXXX, while the proposed project is intended to implement XXX.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of related projects should be comprehensive. Currently, it only includes the three projects from CR7. <p>CR7: Not cleared. Table 8 now includes the required three related projects; however, the lessons learned from those projects are too broad. Lessons learned from a related project should be written by clearly stating what worked, what did not, and how those insights inform or improve the design and implementation of the proposed project.</p>
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		Identify alignment with program activities including community-based and demand-driven interventions such as agroforestry, reforestation, water-efficient irrigation systems, and alternative energy sources.	If applicable, please include in the Table according to CAR8.		
	9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?	Yes. Component 5 in on knowledge management and is said to include participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems.	Yes, but further information is needed. CR 2 (NEW): Kindly include the following information: 1. The roles of each entity/party to identify who will be responsible for tracking the experiences gained, how this will be done, and when the tracking will take place. 2. how the knowledge generated will be sustained after the project concludes.	CR 2 (NEW): Please include: 3. The roles of each entity/party responsible for tracking the experiences gained, how this tracking will be managed and the periodicity for these actions. 4. how the knowledge generated will be sustained after the project concludes.	CR 2 (NEW): Not Cleared. While the role of each party has been added, the information provided is broad regarding the KM products and scope. Please include the following: 5. how the tracking will be managed and the periodicity for these actions. 6. What KM products will the proposed project produced? Please list them with a brief explanation on the content for each one.
	10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the	Yes, however additional information is required An initial consultative process has taken place with various stakeholders, and local stakeholders were said to include women's groups, youth			CR9: Cleared.

	<p>Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>associations, and elders see table on page 18. Indigenous communities are also said to have been engaged with. However, the number of people met is not listed or disaggregated by gender.</p> <p>CR8: Please specify in the consultations section the date(s) of the consultation(s), the total number of participants involved, with particular emphasis on the representation of individuals from vulnerable communities.</p> <p>CR9: Please ensure the national gender machinery is included. Please include the names of the women groups that participated as per CR5, be sure to explain the list of participants.</p> <p>CAR9: Please include an initial gender analysis based on desktop research as required for concept note stage. The analysis should reflect differences and disparities between men, women, in areas such as education, employment, health, income, and political participation. This data is often broader and not necessarily tied to a specific project, focusing instead on national or sector-wide trends related to gender.</p>	<p>CR8: Cleared. AS per information in Table of Consultation Participants (Disaggregated Summary).</p> <p>CR9: Not cleared. Please ensure that the national gender machinery is reflected in the proposed project by including the names of the women's groups that participated.</p> <p>CAR9: Not cleared. Please include an initial gender analysis. The analysis should reflect the different roles, needs and focus between men and women, in areas such as education, employment, health, income, and political participation. Please see CAR6.</p>	<p>CR9: Not cleared. Please ensure that the proposed project reflects the national gender institutional, including the names of the women's groups participating.</p> <p>CAR9: Not cleared. Please include an Initial Gender Analysis as indicated in CAR6.</p>	<p>AS per information provided in Part II.H. The following women's institutions participate in the stakeholder consultations: (i) Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG); (ii) the Regional Gender Desks in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara, and District Community Development Officers; (iii) other organisations such as the Kilimanjaro Women Farmers' Cooperative Union (KIFACU), Mbeya Women Green Entrepreneurs Network, Mara Women Agroforestry Association, Same Women Savings and Credit Groups, and Butiama Women Environmental Conservation Group.</p> <p>CAR9: Not cleared. Please include specifically how gender and other minority groups considerations were included to conduct the</p>
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					stakeholder consultations as well as how their inputs were included in the proposed project.
	11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Part II, Section I of the concept note demonstrates the relevance of each project component in achieving the adaptation objectives. This project does not include co-financing.</p>	-	-	<p>CAR(NEW7): Please confirm explicitly whether the AF will be the sole source of funding. If not, please clearly indicate how the project, using only AF resources, will be able to effectively meet its objectives.</p> <p>CR(NEW1): Please provide details on how the proposed project's objective will be achieved in terms of adaptation.</p> <p>CR(NEW2): Please include information on the costs of the proposed activities, with reference to alternative options and BAU scenarios. This information should be provided for each project component.</p>
	12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?	<p>No.</p> <p>Part II, Section A includes a table; however, many of the</p>	Not cleared.		CR3 (NEW): Not cleared.

		<p>Fund's outcome and output indicators have been altered or created independently. Furthermore, there is misalignment between certain Fund outcomes and outputs and the project activities outlined in the concept.</p> <p>CAR10: Please ensure that project activities correspond with the Adaptation Fund's results framework. Select the relevant outputs, outcomes, and indicators as they are defined in the framework, without modifications, misalignments, or additions to the table. <u>Please update the results framework alignment table based on updated guidance found at Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in November 2025) (77 kB, DOC)</u></p> <p>CAR10: Some of the chosen AF indicators reference physical infrastructure enhancements, but no activities in the concept involve physical infrastructure development. Please confirm whether physical infrastructure investments are intended, given that the concept currently outlines only ecosystem-based investments.</p> <p>CAR11: One of the AF indicators selected for Component 3 relates to news outlets and media, yet</p>	<p>CR3 (NEW): Please reviewed and amended all indicators, where necessary, to ensure that they are SMART. For example, 5.2 <i>“Number of knowledge products informing policy”</i> should specify what policy.</p> <p>CAR10: Not cleared.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please ensure that Adaptation Fund Outcomes and outputs corresponds to the Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in November 2025) (77 kB, DOC). The wording must be precise. 2. Please utilize the updated table to present the information. <p>CR10: Not cleared. Please confirm whether physical infrastructure investments are intended. The current proposed project</p>	<p>CR3 (NEW): Not cleared. Please ensure all outcome and output indicators are SMART.</p> <p>CAR10:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not cleared. Please update the Adaptation Fund Outcomes and outputs corresponds to the Results Framework Alignment Table (Amended in November 2025). The wording must be precise. For example, in the proposal, Fund Output Indicator 4.1.1 is states as <i>“Number of people covered by climate-risk reduction systems”</i>, while in the AF Results Framework is establish as <i>“No. and type of development sector services modified to respond to new conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by sector and scale)”</i>. In addition, please include the 	<p>Please ensure all project's outcome and output indicators are SMART. Consider that Outputs are the direct deliverables of a project, while outcomes are the changes or effects that result from using those deliverables. For example, Outcome indicator 5.1 <i>“Number of knowledge products”</i> corresponds to an <u>output</u> indicator.</p> <p>CAR10:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not cleared. Please ensure that the AF Outcomes and outputs (including indicators) are consistent to the Results Framework Alignment Table (nov 2025). The wording must be precise. For example, in the proposal, AF Outcome Indicator 1.1 states <i>“Number of beneficiaries with reduced exposure to climate risks communities with reduced exposure to</i>
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		<p>none of the activities in this component mention media or news outlets. Please clarify this discrepancy.</p> <p>CR12: Please also ensure that the budget is identified by each associated AF output/indicator on its own and not lumped together.</p>	<p>outlines ecosystem-based investments and the production of knowledge products.</p> <p>CR11: Cleared. The proposed project currently does not include mention to news outlets and media.</p> <p>CR12: Not cleared. Kindly include the budget by each associated AF output/indicator on the Table in Part III.</p>	<p>Grant Amount that corresponds to each component.</p> <p>2. Cleared. Format table is according to the template.</p> <p>CR10: Not cleared. Please confirm whether physical infrastructure investments are intended. The current proposed project outlines ecosystem-based investments and the production of knowledge products.</p> <p>CR12: Not cleared. See CAR10(1).</p>	<p><i>climate hazards and threats</i>", while in the AF Results Framework is established as <i>"Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to stakeholders on a timely basis"</i>.</p> <p>Another example, in the proposal, AF Outcome 5 appears as <i>"Increased ecosystem resilience"</i>, while it should be <i>"Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress"</i> according to the AF Results Framework.</p> <p>CR10: Not cleared. Please confirm whether any physical infrastructure investments are planned. The current project proposal references ecosystem-based interventions and the development of knowledge products.</p>

					CR12: Not cleared. See CAR10.
	<p>13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?</p>	<p>Yes, however some clarification is needed.</p> <p>The concept talks about sustainability from a social, institutional, financial, and environmental perspective.</p> <p>CR13: The project plans to restore 3,000 hectares of land through nature-based solutions like reforestation, kindly indicate how this investment will be sustained post-project.</p> <p>CR14: Please clearly explain how providing the technologies will ensure financial sustainability e.g. how will maintenance be financed post-project.</p> <p>CR15: Please note sustainability should move beyond capacity building. Please indicate if any partnerships will be fostered or how Local Government Authorities will follow through with interventions.</p>	<p>CR 4(NEW): Kindly provide a clear explanation on how replication and scaling up of the proposed project activities and benefits will be achieved and sustained after the project ends.</p> <p>CR13: Not cleared. Please explain what arrangements will be required to include the 3,000 hectares of land in ongoing government restoration initiatives.</p> <p>CR14: Not cleared. Please explain the relationship between training and technology sustainability. From a sustainability perspective, training should follow a periodic approach rather than a one-time session. In addition, please elaborate on private-sector partnerships:</p>	<p>CR4(NEW): Kindly provide a clear explanation on how replication and scaling up of the proposed project activities and benefits will be achieved and sustained after the project ends.</p> <p>CR13: Cleared. As per information provided in page 32. Information provided states that <i>“Restoration of approximately 3,000 hectares will be sustained through integration into existing national and sub-national ecosystem management frameworks. Restored areas will be incorporated into LGA land-use and environmental management plans”.</i></p>	<p>CR4(NEW): Not cleared. Kindly provide a <u>specific</u> explanation on how replication and scaling up of the proposed project activities and benefits will be achieved and sustained after the project ends.</p> <p>CR14: Not cleared. The sustainability measures described are too general. Please address them more specifically and explain, with concrete actions, how sustainability will be ensured from different perspectives (institutional, environmental, economic, and social). In addition, please include the arrangements that will be required (for example, is there any agreement committed or already signed?).</p>

			<p>which entities will be involved, what arrangements will be required, and any other relevant details.</p> <p>CR15: Not cleared. Please specify whether any partnerships will be established and how Local Government Authorities will ensure follow-up on the interventions.</p>	<p>CR14: Not cleared. While the relationship between training and technology sustainability is explained on page 33, one-time trainings are not sufficient to ensure sustainability. They should a periodic approach. Please explain if private-sector partnerships will take place, if so, with which entities and what arrangements will be required (for example, is there any agreement compromised or already signed?).</p> <p>CR15: Cleared. As per information on page 32. Local Government Authorities will ensure follow-up on the interventions by integrating activities into annual development plans and budgets.</p>	
	<p>14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in</p>	<p>Unsure. Part II, Section K's table on environmental and social impacts lacks a description of risk levels and risk anticipation across most</p>	<p>CAR11: Not cleared.</p>	<p>CAR11: Not cleared.</p>	<p>CAR11: Not cleared.</p>

	<p>compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>environmental and social principles. The project's self-categorization as Category C appears inconsistent with the stated need for additional assessment and management to ensure compliance with multiple principles.</p> <p>CAR11: Please revise the project categorization to align with the identified risks and compliance assessments outlined in Part II, Section K of the project concept note. Please refer to https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ESP-Guidance-Revised-in-June-2016-Guidance-document-for-Implementing-Entities-on-compliance-with-the-Adaptation-Fund-Environmental-and-Social-Policy.pdf</p> <p>CAR12: In the table in Part II K on the compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kindly leave a check mark in the second column 'No further assessment required for compliance' if no further assessment and leave blank if an assessment is to be conducted. 	<p>Please revise Table "Environmental and Social Policy & Gender Policy Compliance Screening" and expand, where relevant, all potential impacts (direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative), including how it is planned to mitigate each risk. Mitigation measures should be clearly explained to understand how the identified risks will be managed. In addition, please consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ii) If no risk is identified for a given principle, a sound justification must be provided. iii) All risk should be started by "<i>There is a risk XX</i>". <p>Please note that Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. For more information, please visit: AF's ESP guidance.</p>	<p>Please revise Table 7 and include <u>all 15 principles</u> from the AF ESP Policy and <u>assess each</u> one against the proposed project.</p> <p>In addition, expand the explanation of all potential impacts, including the direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative ones. This should include, in the third column, after the risk explanation, the mitigation measures to address each risk. Please consider that if no risk is identified for a given principle, a sound justification must be provided.</p> <p>Please remember that Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. For more information, please visit: AF's ESP guidance.</p> <p>CAR12: 3. Cleared. As per Table 7, the fourth column was deleted.</p>	<p>Please revise Table 11 and ensure the following:</p> <p>Describe all potential impacts (direct, indirect, transboundary and cumulative) and risks that could result from the project against each principle.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Identify the magnitude of the risks and impacts. For example, using "low, moderate or high risk" to classify each one for each applicable principle. 3. Risks should be described as: "<i>There is a risk</i>" and must be accompanied by mitigation plans. 4. Kindly leave a check mark in the second column 'No further assessment required for compliance' if no further assessment and <u>leave blank if an assessment is to be conducted</u>. No text should be included in the second column.
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		<p>2. In the third column on ‘Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance’ For each risk categorized as low, medium, or high, please provide a brief justification (1-2 sentences) explaining the risk and its potential impacts, followed by a description of the proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>CR16: Please include a summary narrative of the environmental assessment in PART II K of that includes the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project/programme will operate.</p>	<p>CAR12: 1. Cleared. As per information provided in Table “<i>Environmental and Social Policy & Gender Policy Compliance Screening</i>”.</p> <p>2. Not cleared. Please see CAR11 and in addition please delete the fourth column which was added. The risk level and mitigation information should be in column 3.</p> <p>CR16: Not cleared. Please include in Part II.H a summary of the environmental assessment that also addresses the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context in which the project or program will operate</p>	<p>CR16: Cleared. As per information provided on page 36. A brief summary of gender-differentiated roles as part of social context was included.</p>	<p>5. If no risk is identified for a given principle, a <u>sound justification</u> must be provided.</p> <p>6. Adaptation Fund Principles 1, 4 and 6 always apply. For more information, please visit: AF’s ESP guidance. In other words, these principles <u>should not be marked</u> in the column “No further assessment required for compliance” as <u>they need further assessment</u>.</p> <p>CR16(re-opened): Please include a summary of the desktop Initial Gender Analysis, to clarify the opportunities and challenges/risks for men and women, providing specific information about the cultural and/or legal context in which the project will be executed.</p>
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme	Yes.	-	-	-

	funding within the cap of the country?	Tanzania's remaining country Balance in approximately \$30M			
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>CAR13:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please ensure that all the figures are rounded up to whole numbers as per CAR 3 (1) 2. Please note that the IE fee is currently 1.5 percent. Please consider that this may not be sufficient based on all the costs that should be covered under the IE fees. 	<p>CAR13: Cleared.</p> <p>All figures are rounded to a whole number, and the IE fees are correct in size. However please note CAR3 (2).</p>	-	<p>CR(NEW4): Please amend the following in the <u>PFG form</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission date: Currently appears as: August 6, 2025. 2. AF Project ID appears as "To be assigned". It should be: AF00000472. 3. The Implementing Entity Fee should be in the "US\$ Amount" column. 4. Expand on the outputs of each PFG activity with more details, including the content of each one. 5. Expand on the budget notes for each activity with more details. How many staffs? What technical expertise? What is remote sensing for? <p>CAR(NEW1): Please amend the Total Project Formulation</p>

					Grant as the sum of all activities (including the PFG fee) is over 150,000 USD.
	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	<p>Unclear.</p> <p>The EE is not rounded up to a whole number please see CAR3 (1).</p> <p>CAR14:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please clarify which activities NEMC will be undertaking. It is not clear which activities either NEMC and LGAs are undertaking. 2. <i>Please spell out the full legal names for each of the executing entities instead of Local Government Authorities (Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Mara).</i> 3. <i>Please refer to CAR3 (3) on the Execution costs.</i> 	<p>CAR14:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleared. At the fully developed stage in order to comply with B.38/42 ensure that information is provided to justify why IE will be serving as EE as well as to detail the activities and or components that NEMC will be executing to facilitate proper calculation of the EE fees to NEMC. 2. Not cleared. Please include the full legal names for each of the executing entities of Local Government Authorities (Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Mara). 3. Cleared. All figures are rounded to whole numbers for EC However please note CAR3 (2). 	<p>CAR14:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Cleared. As per information on the cover page. The full legal names for each of the LGA executing entities were included. 3. RE-OPEN: Not cleared. The financing request amount is presented with decimals; please amend it to show whole numbers only. 	<p>CAR14:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. RE-OPEN: Cleared. The financing request amount is now presented with no decimals. <p>CR(NEW5): Please include under Part III.A the execution arrangements to differentiate the execution roles of NEMC and the local government authorities.</p>

Eligibility of IE	<p>1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>NEMC is currently under Re-accreditation Process.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p>No.</p> <p>NEMC is currently under Re-accreditation Process.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p>No.</p> <p>NEMC is currently under Re-accreditation Process.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>	<p>No.</p> <p>NEMC is currently under Re-accreditation Process.</p> <p><i>Please be advised that the findings of the AFB Secretariat's review of the funding proposal(s) do not reflect, indicate, or prejudice the outcome of the reaccreditation process currently underway. The Implementing Entity (IE) shall acknowledge that the funding proposal will not be approved by the Board if the IE's accreditation has expired, and reaccreditation has not been achieved at the time of the Board's decision. Notwithstanding this potential risk, the IE has elected to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.</i></p>
Implementation Arrangements	<p>1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in</p>	<p>n/a at concept stage</p>			

	compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?				
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage			
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage			
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage			
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage			
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage			
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage			
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a	n/a at concept stage			

	break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?				
	9. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	n/a at concept stage			
	10. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage			



ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA)

Country: United Republic of Tanzania

Thematic Focal Area: Ecosystem restoration and management

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity (NIE)

Implementing Entity: National Environmental Management Council - NEMC

Executing Entities: NEMC and Local Government Authorities (Kilimanjaro-Same District Council, Mbeya -Mbeya City Council and Mara-Butiama District Council)

Amount of Financing Requested: 13m USD (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes No

Amount of Requested Financing for PFG: 150,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes No

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

Stage of Submission:

This concept has been submitted before

This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 9-Jan-2026.

Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.

Project/Programme Background and Context:

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

The Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (IMERCA) project is a visionary initiative aimed at fortifying the resilience of mountain and highland communities in the breathtaking Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara Regions against the profound impacts of climate change. These stunning landscapes, characterised by their steep, rugged terrain and vibrant ecosystems, are home to densely populated communities that heavily rely on climate-sensitive livelihoods, which makes them particularly susceptible to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

In Tanzania, a notable shift in climate patterns has been observed, revealing a marked increase in rainfall intensity and variability. This trend has precipitated a cascade of challenges, including frequent landslides, devastating flash floods, and alarming soil erosion in the mountainous areas. The impacts are especially pronounced in the picturesque southern highlands of Mbeya, the striking northern highlands of Kilimanjaro, and the lush Lake Victoria basin highlands of Mara. In these regions, the intersection of extreme weather phenomena and steep slopes, combined with the degradation of vegetation cover, underscores the critical need for urgently implemented adaptation strategies. Climate projections suggest that these risks will escalate further, threatening not only human life but also vital infrastructure and agricultural productivity, while exacerbating downstream flooding.

The vulnerability of these remarkable mountain ecosystems is further intensified by ongoing environmental degradation, which has been driven by practices such as deforestation, the cultivation of steep slopes, overgrazing, charcoal production, and the unplanned expansion of settlements. These detrimental activities have eroded the environment's natural resilience, compromised slope stability, and diminished crucial ecosystem services such as efficient water regulation and effective soil retention, ultimately heightening exposure to climate hazards.

Communities within these awe-inspiring regions predominantly rely on rain-fed agriculture, livestock rearing, and forest-based resources, all of which are acutely sensitive to climate variability. The recurrent shocks posed by climate change undermine household incomes and threaten food security, with the most vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and land-poor households, bearing the brunt of these challenges. As ecosystems degrade, women and girls often face heightened burdens of time and labour, particularly in the arduous tasks of collecting water and fuelwood. This, coupled with a scarcity of alternative livelihood opportunities, can lead to increased youth unemployment and the adoption of environmentally unsustainable coping strategies.

From a development standpoint, the risks posed by climate-induced landslides and flooding reveal a stark reality: the exigent need to protect and enhance public

investments in critical infrastructure, agriculture, water supply, and essential social services within the target regions. Effective disaster response and recovery measures are essential to safeguard these investments, ensuring they do not divert precious public resources away from long-term development priorities. Although there are existing national and sub-national policies addressing climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and environmental management, there lies a significant opportunity to strengthen the implementation of integrated, ecosystem-based adaptation measures that can simultaneously mitigate climate risks, restore the resilience of degraded mountain ecosystems, and empower vulnerable communities.

The IMERCA project is poised to address this vital need by launching a suite of climate-informed, ecosystem-based adaptation interventions. These initiatives will focus not only on reducing the risks associated with landslides and floods but also on enhancing ecosystem resilience and fostering inclusive, climate-resilient livelihoods for communities in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara. Through collaborative action and a shared vision, IMERCA aspires to cultivate a sustainable and thriving future for these vulnerable populations, restoring the natural beauty and ecological balance of the mountainous landscapes they call home.

Climate Change Rationale and Vulnerability of Mountain Ecosystems

Tanzania is currently experiencing notable climate trends characterised by a steady increase in mean temperatures and a marked rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events. Projections indicate that by 2040, temperatures could climb by approximately 2°C, reaching a potential increase of 3°C by 2070, and soaring up to 5°C by the century's end relative to historical norms. These temperature shifts are likely to be accompanied by more intense precipitation events, significantly heightening the risks of landslides, flash floods, debris flows, and severe soil erosion, particularly in the country's mountainous regions.

Mountain ecosystems are particularly susceptible to these alterations due to their distinct geomorphology and land-use patterns. When intense rainfall occurs, it generates rapid surface runoff on the steep, rugged slopes, while diminishing vegetation cover compromises the soil's ability to absorb water and maintain stability. This combination leads to an increase in landslide frequency, exacerbating downstream flooding, causing sedimentation in vital rivers and reservoirs, and degrading fertile agricultural land.

Recent incidents of climate-induced disasters serve as a stark reminder of the urgency for action. Intense rainfall linked to climate variability and the El Niño phenomenon has triggered catastrophic landslides and flooding across Tanzania's highland districts, wreaking havoc on lives, infrastructure, agricultural lands, and delicate ecosystems. For instance, in December 2023, a deluge in the Hanang District (Manyara Region) unleashed devastating floods and landslides on the slopes of Mount Hanang, tragically claiming the lives of at least 70 individuals, obliterating homes and public infrastructure, and displacing thousands of residents. Similarly, recurrent heavy rainfall events since 2020 have resulted in severe flooding and landslides in the Mbeya and Songwe Regions, leading to significant damage to critical roads and bridges and the destruction of fertile farmlands nestled in steep catchments.

Vulnerable communities residing on or below these precarious slopes find themselves increasingly exposed to these dangers, while their adaptive capacity remains limited. Women and girls, in particular, are compelled to spend increasing amounts of time scavenging for clean water and fuelwood as their surrounding ecosystems degrade. Meanwhile, young people face rising unemployment rates, often finding themselves resorting to unsustainable practices to exploit local resources. Without timely and targeted adaptation measures, the ongoing impacts of climate change threaten to further erode livelihoods, escalate disaster losses, and undermine the nation's hard-won development gains.

In light of these challenges, IMERCA's adaptation strategy is thoughtfully designed to address the escalating risks posed by climate-induced landslides and flooding. This approach includes a multifaceted focus on ecosystem restoration, slope stabilisation, the implementation of robust early warning systems, and initiatives to diversify livelihoods. Each of these interventions is carefully crafted to respond directly to the observed and projected impacts of climate change. By embracing these proactive strategies, we can enhance resilience within vulnerable communities and pave the way for sustainable development in an increasingly uncertain climate landscape.

Project/Programme Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project/programme.

General Objective:

To enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in Tanzania's mountain ecosystems to climate change-induced landslide and flood risks through ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient livelihood diversification.

Specific Objectives:

- To reduce climate-induced landslide and flood risks by stabilising high-risk slopes using nature-based and bio-engineering solutions.
- To restore degraded mountain ecosystems to enhance ecosystem services critical for climate resilience.
- To strengthen community and institutional capacity for climate risk management, including climate-informed early warning and hazard alert systems.
- To diversify and strengthen climate-resilient, green livelihoods, particularly for women and youth, while reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems.
- To generate, institutionalise and scale evidence and lessons on mountain ecosystem-based adaptation into national and sub-national policies and planning frameworks.

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, activities, expected concrete outputs, and the corresponding budgets. If necessary, please refer to the attached instructions for a detailed description of each term.

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

Table 1. Project Components and Financing

Annex 5 to OPG Amended in October 2017

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US\$)
Component 1: Climate-informed mountain hazard prevention and slope stabilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate risk and landslide hotspot mapping using GIS and community validation Bioengineering of high-risk slopes (vegetative buffers, contour bunds, check dams) Establishment of riparian buffers and hillside agroforestry systems Development and enforcement of community by-laws for slope management in 9 wards across Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mara 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate risk and landslide hotspot maps produced and used by LGAs in 9 wards across Kilimanjaro, Mbeya and Mara At least three stabilized slopes in identified high-risk areas Reduced runoff, erosion and landslide occurrence in target sites Community-managed hazard prevention measures are operational 	3,234,532
Component 2: Restoration of degraded mountain ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting of degraded forests and rangelands Restoration of riparian zones and watersheds Establishment of community-led ecosystem management plans Training of community restoration committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 ha of degraded forests, rangelands and riparian ecosystems restored through assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting Improved ecosystem services (soil stability, water regulation, biodiversity) Functional community-based ecosystem management structures in 9 wards across Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mara. 350 community members (at least 55% women, 35% youth) trained in ecosystem restoration and stewardship practices. 	2,564,700
Component 3: Strengthening institutional and community capacity for climate risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of community-based hazard alert and early warning mechanisms 30 LGAs, ward and village leaders trained on climate risk management and DRR 1,800 community members (at least 50% women) reached through climate risk awareness campaigns. groups across 9 wards in Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mara Integration of climate risk information into local development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Functional community hazard alert systems linked to national early warning services in 9 wards across Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mara Improved preparedness and response capacity at community and LGA levels Increased awareness of climate risks and adaptation options among vulnerable groups Climate-informed local planning processes 	1,358,900
Component 4: Climate-resilient livelihoods and clean cooking solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 women- and youth-led MSMEs from 9 wards supported in climate-resilient value chains (agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, green enterprises). Promotion and distribution of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversified, climate-resilient income sources for vulnerable households Reduced dependence on biomass fuels and pressure on ecosystems Improved health outcomes, especially for women and 	3,234,500

Annex 5 to OPG Amended in October 2017

	<p>modern clean cooking technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1,500 households adopt modern clean cooking technologies (at least 60% female-headed households) in 9 wards across Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mara. 1,500 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land-use in 9 wards across Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Mara. practicesMarket linkages and financial literacy support Training and facilitating the establishment of ecotourism products and services 	<p>children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased adaptive capacity of women and youth Enhancing conservation and protection of potential ecosystems and biodiversity 	
Component 5: Knowledge management, monitoring & evaluation, and policy integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory MEL system operational and aligned with AF Results Framework 30 knowledge products (policy briefs, technical guidelines, case studies) developed and disseminated. Strengthening environmental information centres and data systems 10 policy dialogues conducted at district, regional, and national levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional M&E and learning framework aligned with AF Results Framework Evidence-based scaling of ecosystem-based adaptation and improved integration into policies and planning frameworks. Improved availability and use of environmental and climate information Uptake of IMERCA lessons into policies and planning 	1,425,550
Project/Programme Execution Costs–8.5% of PC	-	-	1,004,545
Total Project/Programme Costs	-	-	11,818,182
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee (if applicable) 1.5% of PC	-	-	177,273
Amount of Financing Requested			13,000,000

Projected Calendar:

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

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	1 st February, 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	31st July 2029
Project/Programme Closing	30 April 2032
Terminal Evaluation	May – December 2032

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

a) Theory of Change (ToC)

The IMERCA project is designed on the premise that landslide and flood risks in Tanzania's mountain ecosystems are driven by the interaction of **intensifying climate hazards** (more frequent and intense heavy rainfall events) with **degraded and poorly managed slopes, forests and watersheds**, and by the **limited adaptive capacity** of vulnerable communities and local institutions.

Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall in Tanzania's mountain ecosystems. Addressing this challenge requires a holistic approach that accounts for healthy forests, stable slopes, effective land-use governance, and diversified livelihoods. By strengthening access to resources for all community members, particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities, and land-poor households, we can work towards adapting and mitigating the impacts of recurrent landslides and floods by restoring degraded landscapes, strengthening climate risk governance, and enabling inclusive, climate-resilient livelihoods. This balanced strategy not only reduces vulnerability but also fosters ecosystem resilience and supports sustainable livelihoods in the region.

Degraded slopes, forests, and watersheds present opportunities to improve soil stability and water regulation, thereby reducing the risk of landslides and floods. These challenges can be effectively tackled through ecosystem-based restoration and slope stabilisation, as outlined in Specific Objectives 1 and 2. Strengthening institutional and community capacity for climate risk management, including enhancing early warning systems and integrating climate-informed planning, is essential and can be achieved through improved climate governance and preparedness systems, in alignment with Specific Objective 3.

By promoting livelihood diversification and clean cooking solutions, we can mitigate the overreliance on climate-sensitive and environmentally degrading livelihoods, such as fuelwood-based energy and rain-fed agriculture, as detailed in Specific Objective 4. Additionally, advancing evidence generation and learning for scaling ecosystem-based adaptation can be facilitated through robust knowledge management, monitoring, and effective policy integration, in accordance with Specific Objective 5.

IF climate risks and landslide hotspots are identified using climate information and participatory mapping, and degraded slopes, forests, rangelands, and riparian ecosystems are restored using ecosystem-based and bioengineering approaches;

AND IF communities and local institutions are equipped with climate risk information, early warning systems, inclusive governance mechanisms, and climate-informed land-use planning tools;

AND IF vulnerable households, especially women, youth, and marginalised groups, gain access to diversified, climate-resilient livelihoods and clean cooking solutions that reduce environmental pressure and climate sensitivity;

AND IF adaptation knowledge, evidence, and lessons are systematically generated and integrated into district, regional, and national planning frameworks;

THEN exposure and sensitivity to climate-induced landslides and floods will be reduced, ecosystem services restored, livelihoods stabilised, and adaptive capacity strengthened, resulting in resilient mountain communities and ecosystems.

Assumptions:

Communities are willing to adopt ecosystem-based land-use practices when tangible livelihood and safety benefits are demonstrated. Local government authorities integrate climate risk information and EbA approaches into development planning and budgeting processes. Markets exist or can be developed for climate-resilient livelihood products and clean cooking technologies. National policy frameworks continue to support decentralisation, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation investments.

Table 2. Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Land-use conflicts over restoration areas	Participatory land-use planning, village bylaws, and grievance redress mechanisms
Exclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable groups	Gender quotas, targeted outreach, tailored training, and Gender Action Plan implementation
Extreme climate events exceed design thresholds	Adaptive management, flexible implementation through Unidentified Subprojects (USPs), and continuous climate risk monitoring
Weak inter-sectoral coordination	Formal MoUs, inter-ministerial technical working groups, and NEMC-led coordination platforms
Low uptake of clean cooking technologies	User-centred design, subsidies for vulnerable households, behaviour change communication, and after-sales support

By addressing the root determinants of climate vulnerability through ecosystem restoration, institutional strengthening, livelihood diversification, and knowledge integration, IMERCA will deliver measurable reductions in landslide and flood risks while strengthening inclusive climate resilience in Tanzania’s mountain ecosystems.

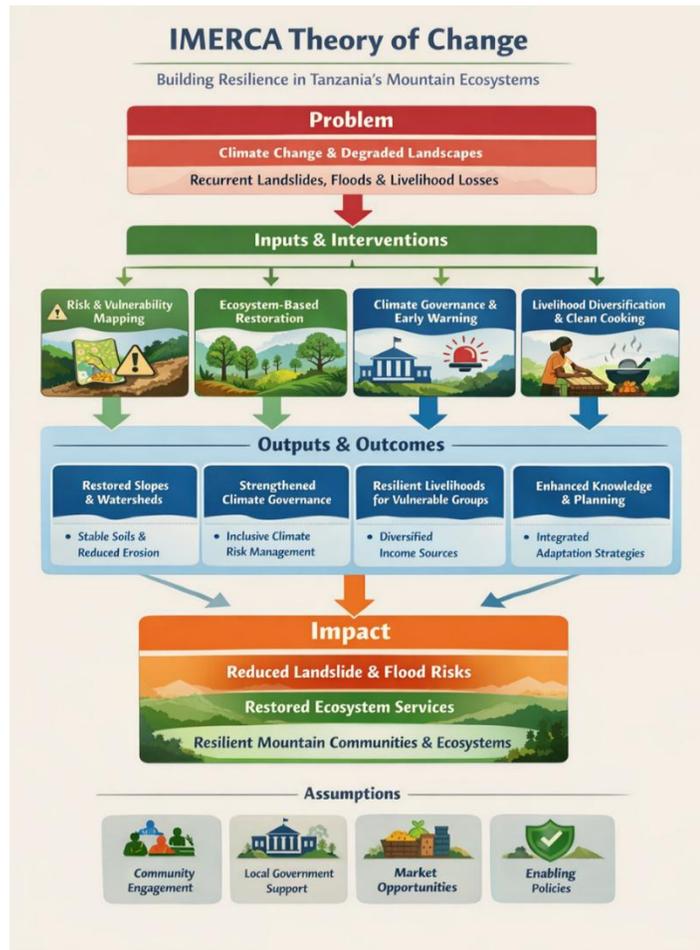


Figure 1. Theory of Change

b) Components Narrative

Project / Programme Components and Contribution to Climate Resilience

The Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (IMERCA) programme champions a holistic, ecosystem-based adaptation strategy to effectively mitigate the escalating risks posed by climate change-induced landslides and floods. This initiative is committed to bolstering the resilience of vulnerable communities residing in Tanzania's stunning mountainous regions, particularly in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara.

Structured around a series of interconnected components, the programme seamlessly combines innovative nature-based solutions with robust institutional strengthening and the promotion of climate-resilient livelihoods. These elements work in harmony to create a comprehensive adaptation framework, one that not only addresses immediate environmental challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability. Ultimately, IMERCA aspires to deliver transformative resilience outcomes that resonate at the landscape, community, and institutional levels, ensuring a thriving future for both people and nature in these vital ecosystems.

Component 1: Climate-Informed Mountain Hazard Prevention and Slope Stabilisation.

This component aims to proactively address climate-induced landslides and flooding through effective, ecosystem-based adaptation measures. By utilising climate risk assessments and landslide hotspot mapping, combined with valuable insights from local

communities, we can identify and prioritise high-risk areas for targeted intervention. The proposed adaptation activities include bioengineering vulnerable slopes through the installation of vegetative buffers, contour bunds, and check dams, and the implementation of hillside agroforestry systems. These strategies are designed to reduce surface runoff, enhance soil infiltration, and improve slope stability, which collectively diminish the risk and impact of landslides and downstream flooding. By incorporating climate data into our hazard prevention efforts, this component reinforces a proactive approach to adaptation, emphasising anticipatory planning over reactive disaster response.

Output 1.1: High-risk mountain slopes identified and climate-informed hazard prevention measures implemented

Adaptation Activities:

- 1.1.1. Conduct climate-informed landslides and flood risk mapping using GIS, historical climate data and community validation.
- 1.1.2. Establish bio-engineered slope stabilisation measures (vegetative buffers, contour bunds, check dams, grass strips).
- 1.1.3. Restore and protect riparian buffer zones along rivers and streams in high-risk catchments.

Contribution to Resilience: These activities reduce exposure to extreme rainfall impacts, slow surface runoff, enhance soil cohesion and lower the probability of slope failure and downstream flooding.

Output 1.2: Community-based slope management systems established and operational

Adaptation Activities:

- 1.2.1. Develop and enforce community bylaws regulating land use on steep slopes and fragile zones.
- 1.2.2. Train community groups on maintenance of bio-engineered structures and vegetation cover.
- 1.2.3. Establish community monitoring systems for early identification of slope instability.
- 1.2.4. Apply erosion control and gully rehabilitation techniques, including sediment traps, live barriers, and contour reformation.

Contribution to Resilience: Local stewardship ensures sustained protection of restored slopes, enabling long-term risk reduction under changing climate conditions.

Component 2: Restoration of Degraded Mountain Ecosystems

The primary objective of this initiative is to significantly enhance ecosystem resilience by rejuvenating degraded forests, rangelands, and riparian zones, which are essential for providing vital climate regulation services. A range of impactful adaptation activities will be implemented, including assisted natural regeneration, in which native flora is encouraged to thrive, and enrichment planting with climate-resilient species well-suited to future conditions. Additionally, comprehensive rehabilitation of watersheds and riverbanks will be undertaken to restore these critical landscapes.

To ensure the sustainable management and protection of these revitalised ecosystems, community-based ecosystem management plans and bylaws will be collaboratively created, incorporating the voices and knowledge of local stakeholders. By restoring these

vital ecosystems, we will enhance their ability to retain water, mitigate erosion and sedimentation, stabilise slopes, and act as natural buffers against extreme rainfall events. This multifaceted approach will not only reinforce the ecological integrity of these areas but also strengthen the adaptive capacity of the communities that depend on them, fostering resilience and sustainability for generations to come.

Output 2.1: Degraded forests, rangelands and riparian ecosystems restored

Adaptation Activities:

- 2.1.1. Implement assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting using climate-resilient native species.
- 2.1.2. Restore degraded rangelands through controlled grazing, reseeding and soil conservation measures.
- 2.1.3. Rehabilitate riparian ecosystems to improve water retention and reduce sedimentation.

Contribution to Resilience: Restored ecosystems absorb climate shocks, regulate water flows during extreme rainfall and drought, and reduce erosion and landslide risks.

Output 2.2: Community-based ecosystem management systems strengthened

Adaptation activities:

- 2.2.1. Establish community restoration committees and joint management agreements.
- 2.2.2. Develop ecosystem management and restoration plans integrated into village land-use plans.
- 2.2.3. Train communities in ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management.

Contribution to Resilience: Strengthened governance ensures sustained ecosystem services that underpin long-term adaptation benefits

Component 3: Strengthening Institutional and Community Capacity for Climate Risk Management

This initiative seeks to significantly enhance adaptive capacity by empowering institutions and communities to thoughtfully anticipate, prepare for, and effectively respond to climate hazards. Central to our approach is the establishment of community-based hazard alert systems that seamlessly integrate with national early warning frameworks, ensuring timely and accurate information flows.

We prioritize comprehensive training for local government authorities and community leaders in climate risk management and disaster preparedness, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate climate challenges. Additionally, we focus on embedding climate risk information into local development planning, fostering resilience and informed decision-making at the grassroots level.

These targeted interventions not only promote proactive measures that improve early action but also play a crucial role in minimising the impact of extreme events, thereby safeguarding lives and protecting valuable assets. Ultimately, our aim is to fortify the sustainability of adaptation strategies through strengthened local governance systems, ensuring that communities are well-equipped to thrive in the face of climate change.

Output 3.1: Community-based climate hazard alert and early warning mechanisms operational

Adaptation Activities:

- 3.1.1. Establish community-level hazard alert systems linked to national meteorological and disaster management services.
- 3.1.2. Train local focal points on climate information interpretation and communication.
- 3.1.3. Conduct simulation exercises and drills for landslide and flood response.

Contribution to Resilience: Timely warnings reduce loss of life, assets and livelihoods during climate extremes.

Output 3.2: Institutional capacity for climate-informed planning strengthened

Adaptation Activities:

- 3.2.1. Train LGAs on climate risk assessment and integration into development planning.
- 3.2.2. Incorporate climate risk data into district and ward plans.
- 3.2.3. Develop coordination mechanisms between LGAs, communities and sector agencies.

Contribution to Resilience: Climate-informed institutions are better able to anticipate, plan for and manage climate risks.

Component 4: Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Clean Cooking Solutions

This initiative is dedicated to bolstering climate resilience by enhancing sustainable livelihoods and alleviating the strain on fragile mountain ecosystems. It encompasses a range of impactful adaptation strategies, including support for women- and youth-led green micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that foster innovation and economic growth. By promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, the initiative encourages farmers to adopt environmentally friendly techniques that enhance productivity while preserving natural resources.

Moreover, the dissemination of modern clean cooking technologies plays a crucial role in this effort. These solutions not only diversify income sources and strengthen food security but also significantly reduce dependence on traditional biomass fuels, thereby lowering deforestation rates and improving the overall adaptive capacity of households. The health benefits of clean cooking technologies are profound, as they reduce indoor air pollution, promoting better respiratory health and overall well-being. In addition, by freeing up time that women and girls typically spend collecting traditional fuel and cooking, these innovations empower them and strengthen their social resilience, enabling greater participation in education and community activities.

Output 4.1: Climate-resilient, green livelihoods for vulnerable households strengthened

Adaptation Activities:

- 4.1.1. Support women- and youth-led MSMEs in climate-resilient value chains (e.g. agroforestry products, sustainable agriculture).
- 4.1.2. Provide skills training, starter inputs and business development services.
- 4.1.3. Facilitate access to markets and financial services.
- 4.1.4. Train and facilitate the establishment of local ecotourism products and services

- 4.1.5. Facilitate training on value addition, packaging, product certification, and market linkages for local producers.
- 4.1.6. Support community cooperatives and producer groups (especially women/youth groups) to engage in green value chains such as honey, medicinal plants, tree-based crops, and eco-friendly crafts.

Contribution to Resilience: Diversified incomes reduce dependence on climate-sensitive and environmentally destructive activities.

Output 4.2: Clean cooking technologies adopted by vulnerable households

Adaptation Activities:

- 4.2.1. Promote and distribute modern clean cooking technologies.
- 4.2.2. Train local entrepreneurs on installation, maintenance and marketing.
- 4.2.3. Conduct behaviour change campaigns targeting women and youth.

Contribution to Resilience: Reduced deforestation, improved health outcomes and lower household vulnerability to climate-induced resource scarcity.

Component 5: Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Policy Integration

This component plays a pivotal role in fostering a culture of learning, promoting long-term sustainability, and ensuring the scalability of adaptation outcomes. Our activities are centred on engaging stakeholders in participatory monitoring and evaluation processes closely aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework, thereby ensuring transparency and inclusiveness. We are committed to meticulously documenting best practices and valuable lessons learned throughout the initiative.

Additionally, we will initiate dynamic policy dialogues to seamlessly integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into planning frameworks at the district, regional, and national levels, ensuring that these strategies are not only recognised but also actively implemented. By fortifying environmental information systems, we empower stakeholders with crucial data that supports informed, evidence-based decision-making. This approach not only enhances the efficacy of current interventions but also paves the way for replicating successful strategies in areas beyond the scope of the initial program, fostering widespread, positive change.

Output 5.1: Monitoring, evaluation and learning systems established and functional

Adaptation Activities:

- 5.1.1. Develop participatory M&E systems aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework.
- 5.1.2. Support green entrepreneurship through business development training, mentorship, and tailored technical assistance
- 5.1.3. Collect and analyse climate, environmental and socio-economic resilience data.
- 5.1.4. Facilitate learning exchanges among project regions.

Contribution to Resilience: Continuous learning enables adaptive management under evolving climate conditions.

Output 5.2: Policy-relevant knowledge generated and integrated into planning frameworks

Adaptation Activities:

- 5.2.1. Document best practices and lessons from ecosystem-based adaptation interventions.
- 5.2.2. Conduct policy dialogues at district, regional and national levels.
- 5.2.3. Integrate lessons into NDC, NAP, TDV 2050, FYDP III, NCCRS and sub-national planning processes.

Contribution to Resilience: Scaling successful approaches increases resilience beyond project sites.

Programme-Level Contribution to Increased Climate Resilience

The IMERCA programme embodies a holistic, forward-thinking strategy to significantly enhance resilience through a series of meticulously defined adaptation interventions explicitly tailored to diverse regions, ecosystems, and stakeholder communities.

Components 1 and 2 are dedicated to mitigating physical exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards by employing innovative techniques to stabilise slopes and rejuvenate essential ecosystem functions. This proactive approach not only safeguards communities from the immediate threats of landslides and floods but also fosters the restoration of natural habitats that support biodiversity.

Component 3 focuses on strengthening institutional and community capacities, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to manage climate risks with confidence and effectiveness. By building robust networks and fostering collaboration, this component enhances local stakeholders' ability to respond dynamically to climate challenges.

Component 4 delves deep into the socio-economic factors that contribute to vulnerability, working diligently to enhance livelihoods and mitigate environmental pressures, with a particular emphasis on supporting women and youth. By creating economic opportunities and promoting sustainable practices, this component aims to uplift those who are often the most affected by climate change.

Finally, Component 5 is committed to ensuring that the positive impacts of adaptation are not only sustained over time but also expanded and integrated into fundamental policy and planning frameworks. This strategic alignment facilitates a systemic approach to resilience, ensuring that adaptive practices are embedded within the fabric of local governance.

Together, these interwoven components yield a comprehensive and synergistic framework that ultimately leads to profound resilience outcomes: significantly reduced risks of climate-induced landslides and floods, revitalised ecosystem services that promote sustainability, enhanced capacities for adaptive management, and inclusive, climate-resilient development in Tanzania's unique mountain ecosystems. This integrated approach not only addresses immediate challenges but also sets the stage for achieving lasting resilience gains that far exceed the sum of individual efforts.

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

Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits, Including Gender Considerations

The IMERCA programme is a holistic initiative that delivers vital economic, social, and environmental benefits and actively strengthens climate resilience among the most at-risk communities in Tanzania's breathtaking mountain ecosystems. This transformative effort focuses particularly on the diverse regions of Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara, empowering local populations while preserving their unique environments for future generations.

This section enhances our understanding of the anticipated benefits by leveraging a robust array of evidence, including peer-reviewed research, regional programme evaluations, government datasets, and findings from comparable initiatives focused on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), disaster risk reduction (DRR), clean cooking, and livelihood diversification. Whenever feasible, our estimations are supported by documented effect sizes from similar successful interventions, providing a solid foundation for our conclusions.

Table 3. Summary of Project Beneficiaries

Category	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
Total population	85,000	310,000
Women and Youth	45%	45%
Men	37%	30%
People with Disabilities	2%	3%
Elderly (60+ years)	3%	4%
Female-headed households	13%	18%

The estimates are derived from population statistics from Tanzania's 2022 Population and Housing Census and district development plans for the Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara regions. Additionally, these projections account for anticipated household coverage in relation to slope stabilization, ecosystem restoration, livelihood support, and interventions related to clean cooking within each respective component.

Economic Benefits

IMERCA is committed to advancing the economic resilience of vulnerable households by actively addressing climate-related challenges and cultivating a diverse range of climate-resilient livelihoods. By implementing ecosystem-based hazard prevention and restoration initiatives, the program can effectively mitigate the adverse impacts of landslides, floods, and soil erosion on farmland, housing, and local infrastructure. This proactive approach not only safeguards household assets and income but also fosters a more stable and secure environment in which families can thrive.

In addition, the program focuses on supporting climate-resilient green value chains and fostering agroforestry-based enterprises that empower micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) led by women and youth. By creating alternative income sources that are less susceptible to climate variability, we encourage innovation and entrepreneurship within these communities.

Moreover, the introduction of clean cooking technologies presents a transformative opportunity to reduce household expenditure on fuelwood and charcoal. This shift not

only alleviates financial burdens but also stimulates local job creation in areas such as distribution, installation, and maintenance. Evidence from Tanzania and Kenya indicates that the adoption of improved cookstoves can reduce household fuel expenditure by 20–35% while generating local enterprise income. These economic benefits resonate deeply with women, youth, land-poor households, and other vulnerable groups, who often grapple with limited access to stable income sources and essential financial services. Together, these initiatives pave the way for a more equitable and resilient future for all.

Social Benefits

The program serves as a vital catalyst for enhancing safety, well-being, and resilience within communities. By effectively mitigating exposure to climate-related landslides and floods, it plays a crucial role in reducing the risks of injury, loss of life, and displacement. The establishment of community-based hazard alert systems and proactive preparedness strategies empowers local residents, equipping them to anticipate and adeptly respond to the challenges posed by extreme weather events.

IMERCA is committed to fostering inclusive participation and empowerment by actively engaging women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalised households throughout all stages of planning, implementation, and decision-making. This proactive approach ensures that a wide range of voices are not only heard but also valued. As a result, innovative ecosystem restoration efforts and clean cooking initiatives have significantly alleviated the time and labour burdens traditionally faced by women and girls in collecting fuelwood and water. The implementation of community-based early warning systems (EWS), combined with ecosystem restoration, has been shown to dramatically reduce disaster-related mortality and injuries by 35–60% and displacement by 20–45% (UNDRR, 2019; World Bank, 2021). Additionally, integrating clean cooking technologies has led to substantial improvements in indoor air quality, yielding impressive health benefits, particularly for women and children who are disproportionately affected by household air pollution.

Environmental Benefits

IMERCA is dedicated to the proactive restoration and safeguarding of around 1,500 hectares of degraded mountain ecosystems, which are foundational to building climate resilience. Our focused initiatives aim to restore and rejuvenate forests, rangelands, and riparian zones, resulting in significant improvements in vital ecosystem services. These enhancements include soil stabilization, water flow regulation, biodiversity conservation, and effective carbon sequestration. Revitalizing these ecosystems is essential for mitigating the impacts of heavy rainfall, as it helps reduce runoff and erosion, thereby lowering the risks of landslides and floods for both upstream and downstream communities.

Additionally, our commitment to promoting sustainable land-use practices and minimizing reliance on unsustainable resource extraction supports long-term ecosystem health and resilience. This comprehensive approach not only protects these critical habitats but also empowers them to adapt to the growing challenges posed by climate change, fostering a thriving environment for future generations.

Research indicates that vegetation-based slope stabilisation can reduce surface runoff and soil erosion by 30–65%, as well as landslide occurrences by 20–55%, depending on factors such as slope gradient, vegetation type, and rainfall intensity (Morgan, 2005; FAO, 2016; World Bank, 2021). In the East African highlands, agroforestry and riparian buffer restoration have successfully reduced river sediment loads by 25–45% and improved downstream water quality (UNEP, 2019). Furthermore, forest and riparian restoration in fragmented mountain landscapes has been shown to enhance native species richness by 15–40% within 5–10 years and improve habitat connectivity for pollinators and wildlife (CBD, 2019; UNEP-WCMC, 2021). By employing indigenous species and embracing landscape-scale restoration, IMERCA is poised to significantly support biodiversity recovery while bolstering ecosystem resilience against climate stressors.

Gender Considerations and Support to Vulnerable Groups

Gender equality and social inclusion are foundational pillars in the thoughtful design and effective implementation of IMERCA. This innovative program embraces a forward-looking, gender-responsive approach that recognises the unique climate vulnerabilities, diverse roles, and varied capacities that exist within communities.

Initial Gender Analysis

A thorough Initial Gender Analysis was conducted, drawing from a rich tapestry of national and sectoral data. This included information from Tanzania’s Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS), detailed statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics, guiding principles outlined in the National Gender Policy, and in-depth climate vulnerability assessments. Additionally, integrated findings from authoritative peer-reviewed literature examining the intricate relationship between gender and climate change in the unique context of the East African mountains. This multifaceted analysis endeavours to deepen the project’s understanding of gender dynamics and inform the development of more effective and inclusive strategies to tackle climate challenges in the region.

Through this analysis, key findings were;

- **Education and Skills:** In rural mountainous areas, female students have significantly lower rates of secondary school completion and limited access to technical and vocational education. This educational disparity hinders their integration into formal employment sectors and green enterprise initiatives.
- **Employment and Income:** Women are predominantly engaged in subsistence agriculture, informal employment, and unpaid caregiving roles, and face systemic barriers to access to credit, land ownership, and productive assets. The youth demographic, particularly young women, confronts high rates of unemployment and underemployment.
- **Land and Natural Resource Access:** Customary land tenure systems often restrict women’s access to land ownership and diminish their decision-making authority over forest and water resources. This limitation hinders their ability to implement climate-resilient agricultural practices and engage in ecosystem restoration.
- **Health and Time Burden:** In many mountainous communities, the responsibility for fuelwood and water collection falls primarily on women and girls, who spend 2–4 hours daily on these tasks. This extensive time commitment not only subjects them to physical strain and security risks but also restricts their opportunities for education, economic participation, and civic engagement.

- **Climate Vulnerability:** Women, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities face heightened vulnerability to climate-related shocks, attributable to inequitable access to resources, information, mobility, and decision-making channels. Climate-induced events such as landslides and floods disproportionately impact women's livelihoods, food security, and caregiving roles.
- **Political Participation and Leadership:** Women remain underrepresented in key governance structures, including village natural resource committees, disaster management organisations, and land-use planning groups. This lack of representation constrains their ability to influence adaptation strategies and resource distribution effectively.

IMERCA will ensure integration of gender-responsive strategies through the following key initiatives

- Ensuring that at least 50% of participants are women and 30% are youth, enabling a more balanced representation across all program components and governance structures, thus fostering diverse perspectives and inclusive decision-making.
- Designing clean cooking and livelihood technologies that reduce women's time burden and improve health outcomes.
- Integrating gender-responsive indicators, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms through the Gender Action Plan.
- Designing inclusive training schedules, user-friendly technologies, and effective communication strategies that are both accessible and relevant for women and vulnerable groups, thus empowering them to fully engage with the program's offerings.
- Promoting women's leadership in community restoration committees and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), creating spaces where their voices can be heard and their contributions valued in local economic development.

To ensure the success of these initiatives, a comprehensive Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be formulated and implemented. This strategic framework will guide targeted actions, establish measurable indicators, and enhance monitoring processes, ultimately fostering an environment where gender equality and social inclusion thrive.

Avoidance and Mitigation of Negative Impacts in Compliance with AF ESP and Gender Policy

IMERCA has been meticulously crafted to fully embrace the principles outlined in the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund, reflecting a strong commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. The project has been preliminarily classified as Category B, which indicates a low to moderate risk profile, and anticipates no significant adverse impacts on the environment or the communities involved.

To proactively address and manage potential risks, a range of thoughtful and effective mitigation strategies will be implemented:

- **Land-use conflicts** will be skillfully navigated through inclusive, participatory land-use planning processes. This will involve engaging stakeholders in free, prior, and informed consultations, fostering collaboration, and developing community by-laws and joint management agreements that respect local needs and aspirations.
- **To combat the exclusion of vulnerable groups**, the project will prioritise inclusive stakeholder engagement. This includes setting specific gender and social inclusion targets and conducting targeted outreach to marginalised households,

ensuring that diverse voices are represented and heard throughout the project.

- **Labour and occupational health risks will** be carefully managed by adhering to established national labour standards and implementing comprehensive occupational health and safety guidelines. The focus will be on creating fair and equitable working conditions, thereby promoting the well-being of all workers involved in the project.
- **Environmental risks associated with restoration activities** will be minimised through the strategic selection of native, climate-resilient plant species. Additionally, thorough site-specific environmental screenings will be conducted to ensure that restoration efforts are ecologically sound and aligned with local ecosystems.

Furthermore, the programme will establish a robust project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is accessible, gender-sensitive, and culturally appropriate. This mechanism will empower individuals and communities to voice their concerns and engage in constructive dialogue, facilitating prompt and effective resolutions to issues that may arise.

Throughout the Project Formulation Grant (PFG) phase, comprehensive Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and a detailed Gender Action Plan will be developed and rigorously implemented throughout the project's lifecycle. This approach will not only ensure continuous compliance with environmental and social standards but also enable adaptive risk management, ultimately fostering positive, lasting impacts for both the environment and the communities served.

Table 4. Summary of the ESMP principle, risks, mitigation measures and compliance justification.

ESP Principle	Risk Level	Key Risks Identified	Mitigation / Management Measures	Compliance Justification
Access & Equity	Low	Exclusion of vulnerable groups	Gender quotas, targeted outreach	Inclusive design embedded
Marginalized Groups	Low	Limited participation	Dedicated consultations, GRM	AF Gender Policy applied
Huma Rights	Low	None anticipated	Rights-based implementation	National and international legal alignment
Gender Equality	Low	Gender imbalance	GAP, sex-disaggregated M&E	Policy-compliant
Core Labour Rights	Low	Labor safety	OHS standards, contracts	Tanzania labour law
Indigenous Peoples	Low	None identified	FPIC screening	No IP presence
Involuntary Resettlement	None	No displacement	Avoidance through EbA	Zero resettlement
Protection of Natural Habitats	Moderate	Temporary disturbance	ESMPs, restoration	Net-positive impact
Conservation of Biodiversity	Low	Localized impacts	Species-sensitive restoration	Biodiversity safeguards
Climate Change	Positive	Increased resilience	EbA focus	Core AF mandate
Pollution prevention	Low	Waste during works	Waste management plan	Minimal footprint
Public health	Low	Temporary risks	Safety protocol established	Risks managed
Physical and cultural heritage	Low	Disturbance risks	Chance finds procedures	National compliance
Lands and soil	positive	Erosion reduction	Slope stabilization	Climate

conservation			justification
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Table 5. Summary of Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits by Component

Component	Economic Benefits	Social Benefits (incl. Vulnerable Groups & Gender)	Environmental Benefits
Component 1: Climate-informed mountain hazard prevention and slope stabilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced economic losses from landslides and floods (farmland, housing, infrastructure) • Protection of productive land and local assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved safety and reduced loss of life in high-risk communities • Increased community preparedness and risk awareness • Benefits women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities who are disproportionately affected by disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilised slopes and reduced soil erosion • Reduced runoff and downstream flood risks • Improved watershed functioning under extreme rainfall
Component 2: Restoration of degraded mountain ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained agricultural productivity through improved soil and water regulation • Reduced long-term disaster recovery costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened community stewardship and governance • Enhanced access to ecosystem services for vulnerable households • Reduced labour burden for women through improved access to water and fuelwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored forests, Rangelands and riparian ecosystems • Enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem resilience • Increased carbon sequestration and climate buffering capacity
Component 3: Strengthening institutional and community capacity for climate risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced emergency response and recovery costs • More efficient use of public resources through climate-informed planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved early warning, preparedness and response capacity • Inclusive access to climate information, particularly for women and marginalised groups • Strengthened local institutions and social cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved integration of climate risk considerations into land-use and environmental management • Reduced environmentally harmful coping strategies
Component 4: Climate-resilient livelihoods and clean cooking solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified, climate-resilient income sources for vulnerable households • Employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth • Reduced household expenditure on fuelwood and charcoal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health outcomes from reduced indoor air pollution • Reduced time and labour burden for women and girls • Enhanced economic empowerment and adaptive capacity of women and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced deforestation and pressure on fragile mountain ecosystems • Lower greenhouse gas emissions from clean cooking technologies
Component 5: Knowledge management, M&E and policy integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-effective scaling of proven adaptation solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved evidence-based decision-making at community and institutional levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved environmental data and monitoring

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved return on investment through learning and replication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive knowledge sharing and learning across regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uptake of ecosystem-based adaptation into policies and planning frameworks
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C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme.

The proposed project demonstrates strong cost-effectiveness by leveraging nature-based solutions, community-driven implementation, and multisectoral coordination to deliver high-impact climate adaptation outcomes at relatively low cost. By focusing on ecosystem restoration, slope stabilisation, and clean energy technologies, the project avoids the higher expenses associated with complex infrastructure while achieving long-term protective benefits. Capacity building, early warning systems, and community hazard alert mechanisms reduce future disaster response costs, while livelihood diversification reduces dependence on climate-vulnerable sectors, thereby strengthening economic resilience. The integration of existing institutional frameworks and local structures further enhances efficiency, scalability, and sustainability, making this a financially sound investment in climate resilience for the most vulnerable populations.

Table 6. Summary of Project Costs and Benefits by Component

Component	Indicative Cost (USD)	Key Economic Benefits	Key Social Benefits (incl. Gender & Vulnerable Groups)	Key Environmental & Climate Resilience Benefits
Component 1: Climate-informed mountain hazard prevention and slope stabilisation	3,234,532	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoided losses from landslides and floods (farmland, housing, infrastructure) Protection of productive land and local assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced loss of life and injury in high-risk communities Increased safety for women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stabilised slopes and reduced erosion Reduced runoff and downstream flood risks Increased resilience to extreme rainfall
Component 2: Restoration of degraded mountain ecosystems	2,564,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained agricultural productivity Reduced long-term disaster recovery and land rehabilitation costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to ecosystem services for vulnerable households Reduced time burden for women due to improved water and fuelwood availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restored forests, rangelands and riparian zones Improved water regulation and soil stability Enhanced ecosystem resilience and biodiversity
Component 3: Strengthening institutional and community capacity for climate risk management	1,358,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced emergency response and recovery expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved early warning, preparedness and response capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved integration of climate risk into land-use and environmental planning

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efficient climate-informed public investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive access to climate information for women and marginalised groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced environmentally harmful coping strategies
Component 4: Climate-resilient livelihoods and clean cooking solutions	3,234,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified and stabilised household incomes • Green employment for women and youth • Reduced household expenditure on biomass fuels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health outcomes from reduced indoor air pollution • Reduced labour burden for women and girls • Increased economic empowerment and adaptive capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced deforestation and pressure on mountain ecosystems • Lower emissions from clean cooking technologies
Component 5: Knowledge management, M&E and policy integration	1,425,550	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-effective replication and scaling of proven adaptation solutions • Improved return on adaptation investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved evidence-based decision-making • Inclusive learning and knowledge sharing across regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened environmental information systems • Uptake of ecosystem-based adaptation into policies and plans
TOTAL PROJECT COST	11,818,182	High benefit–cost ratio through avoided losses and sustained livelihoods	Inclusive resilience benefits for vulnerable groups and women	Long-term ecosystem resilience and climate risk reduction.

The project is strategically designed to maximise benefits for vulnerable communities by selecting the most cost-effective interventions to enhance resilience and adaptation to climate change. Using a combination of community-driven approaches and ecosystem-based solutions, the project prioritises interventions based on cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses, particularly those identified in the UNEP-GEF McKinsey Report as high-return climate adaptation strategies. For example, ecosystem-based landslide prevention offers lower-cost slope stabilisation than infrastructure-heavy alternatives. At the same time, restoring degraded ecosystems delivers significant economic and ecological returns through improved soil productivity, carbon sequestration, and watershed protection.

Community awareness and community hazard alert mechanisms significantly reduce future disaster response and recovery costs, yielding high social value at relatively low investment. Livelihood diversification and clean cooking solutions enhance income stability, reduce deforestation, and improve health outcomes, thereby lowering long-term vulnerability and adaptation costs. Meanwhile, knowledge management and policy integration ensure that successful models are institutionalized, enhancing scalability without significant additional financial input. Collectively, the anticipated economic, social, and environmental benefits of implementing these components are projected to far outweigh the costs, helping prevent climate-induced losses and build lasting resilience among the most at-risk populations.

D. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.

The Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation (IMERCA) programme is a transformative initiative that aligns seamlessly with Tanzania's broader sustainable development objectives and climate resilience strategies at both national and regional levels. By effectively operationalising key policy commitments, the programme translates them into innovative, integrated, ecosystem-based adaptation actions tailored specifically for the vulnerable mountain ecosystems of the Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara Regions. This forward-thinking approach not only strengthens the ecological integrity of these breathtaking landscapes but also fortifies the communities that depend on them against the impacts of climate change, fostering a sustainable and resilient future for generations to come.

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)

IMERCA is making significant strides in supporting Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0), which is ready for launch and submission to the UNFCCC, with a particular emphasis on strengthening ecosystem resilience, advancing disaster risk reduction, promoting climate-resilient agriculture, and ensuring sustainable land management. This comprehensive program is dedicated to the revival of degraded ecosystems, which not only restores biodiversity but also reinforces the natural infrastructure that communities rely on. By addressing the risks posed by climate-induced landslides and flooding, IMERCA strengthens the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to withstand climate change impacts. Additionally, the initiative promotes sustainable livelihoods through climate-resilient strategies and the adoption of clean energy solutions, fostering a pathway towards a more sustainable and secure future for all.

National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2021–2026)

The program is strategically aligned with NCCRS priority actions, including ecosystem-based adaptation, proactive climate risk management, robust capacity building, advanced early warning systems, and community resilience. IMERCA's dedicated focus on nature-based solutions, such as restoring natural habitats and promoting sustainable land use, coupled with efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks and implement climate-informed planning, significantly contributes to the NCCRS's overarching goal of minimising climate vulnerability. This comprehensive approach not only champions low-carbon development but also fosters a future where communities are better equipped to adapt to changing environmental conditions, ultimately paving the way for a more sustainable and resilient society.

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process and National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)

IMERCA significantly strengthens Tanzania's climate resilience by complementing its

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Building on the priorities identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), the program focuses on strengthening adaptive capacity in vital, climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water management, and disaster risk reduction. By specifically targeting the unique and fragile mountain ecosystems recognised as critical climate hotspots, IMERCA adeptly addresses pressing adaptation challenges. This initiative not only identifies and fills essential gaps but also showcases adaptable, scalable models for effective implementation under the NAP framework. Ultimately, this forward-thinking program lays a strong foundation for fostering more resilient communities and thriving ecosystems across Tanzania.

Tanzania Development Vision 2050 and Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III)

IMERCA is strategically aligned with the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, which underscores the vital importance of environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and inclusive growth as cornerstones for a thriving future. This initiative not only bolsters the key priorities of FYDP III, emphasising the development of resilient infrastructure and sustainable management of natural resources, but also champions efforts to alleviate poverty and nurture human capital development. By proactively addressing climate-related disaster risks, IMERCA seeks to safeguard vital development investments in the nation's most vulnerable regions, ensuring a robust foundation for sustainable progress and enhanced community well-being throughout Tanzania.

Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development Strategies

By tackling the challenges posed by climate-induced livelihood losses and championing a range of diversified, climate-resilient income opportunities particularly for women and youth IMERCA plays a vital role in advancing national poverty reduction initiatives. Implementing clean cooking solutions, coupled with enhancing ecosystem services, significantly improves household well-being and promotes healthier living conditions. This holistic approach not only fosters gender equality but also strengthens the foundation for inclusive development goals, creating a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

Environmental and Natural Resource Management Policies

IMERCA serves as a vital link to national policies dedicated to environmental management, forestry, biodiversity conservation, and land-use planning. The program champions ecosystem restoration and advocates sustainable land management, empowering communities to take charge of their natural resources through participatory governance. By facilitating active engagement from local stakeholders in the planning process, IMERCA not only strengthens the enforcement of by-laws but also weaves these initiatives seamlessly into district development plans. This integrative approach fosters a rich, collaborative environment that encourages responsible land stewardship and promotes a harmonious balance between community needs and ecological health.

Sub-National Development and Climate Strategies

At the sub-national level, IMERCA forges meaningful partnerships with Regional and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to ensure that development plans, disaster risk management strategies, and land-use frameworks in the Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara Regions are harmoniously aligned. This programme thoughtfully blends climate risk information with innovative ecosystem-based adaptation measures, woven into the fabric of district and village planning processes. By doing so, it not only strengthens local

ownership but also nurtures sustainable practices within communities, empowering them to thrive amid environmental challenges.

National Communications and Reporting Obligations

IMERCA is a pivotal force in advancing Tanzania's commitments under the UNFCCC by generating comprehensive data, insights, and best practices essential to crafting National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, and future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) updates. This program significantly enhances the country's environmental information systems, thereby fortifying the foundations for evidence-based reporting on adaptation outcomes, which is crucial for informed climate action.

By meticulously aligning its initiatives with Tanzania's national and subnational strategies to combat climate change, foster sustainable development, and alleviate poverty, IMERCA ensures robust policy coherence and cultivates strong national ownership. This alignment not only enhances the likelihood of long-term sustainability but also instills a sense of community engagement and responsibility.

The program adeptly translates policy commitments into practical adaptation actions that effectively reduce climate risks and restore vital ecosystems. By emphasising resilient development in Tanzania's breathtaking mountain regions, IMERCA ensures that each initiative is not merely theoretical but delivers real-world benefits. This approach harmonizes perfectly with the objectives of the Adaptation Fund, guaranteeing that efforts are both impactful and enduring, while fostering a more sustainable future for the communities involved.

E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The IMERCA project is dedicated to upholding all applicable national technical standards and regulations, fostering a strong commitment to environmental integrity and social sustainability. By implementing comprehensive compliance measures, we aim to create a positive impact that resonates with the community while preserving the natural ecosystem. These measures will not only safeguard the environment but also promote sustainable practices that benefit society as a whole:

Alignment with National Technical Standards

- **Environmental Assessment Standards:** Every project activity is carefully evaluated through comprehensive environmental impact assessments (EIAs), in line with the Tanzanian Environmental Management Act and the guidelines provided by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC). This proactive approach ensures that all interventions, such as infrastructure development and adaptation measures, are designed to meet essential environmental safeguards and promote sustainable practices.
- **Building and Construction Codes:** All physical interventions, including climate-resilient infrastructure and community facilities, are thoughtfully designed and built in accordance with national building codes and structural safety standards. This

approach ensures not only durability and safety but also enhances resilience against climate-related challenges.

- **Sector-specific Technical Standards:** The project incorporates sector-specific standards where applicable, such as agricultural best practices, water management protocols, and forestry management guidelines, to maintain technical quality and effectiveness.

Compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy

- **Environmental and Social Safeguards:** IMERCA will actively strengthen its project framework by seamlessly integrating the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) requirements established by the Adaptation Fund. This comprehensive approach involves meticulously screening each project component for potential environmental and social risks. Through this careful evaluation, IMERCA can identify vulnerabilities and implement tailored mitigation measures that not only address these risks but also promote sustainable development and community well-being.
- **Protection of Vulnerable Groups:** The project thoughtfully integrates the unique needs and perspectives of vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and marginalized communities. By prioritizing equitable participation, it actively empowers these groups to voice their concerns and contribute meaningfully. Furthermore, the initiative ensures access to vital resources and implements protective measures to mitigate any potential negative impacts, all while fostering an inclusive environment that promotes the well-being and resilience of all stakeholders involved.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** The program will ensure the implementation of ongoing monitoring systems to effectively track adherence to environmental, social, and technical standards. This proactive approach allows us to promptly address any deviations by taking corrective actions, ensuring we maintain our commitment to these essential standards.

IMERCA diligently employs a comprehensive set of measures to ensure that all its activities are not only technically sound but also environmentally sustainable and socially responsible. By meticulously aligning with both national standards and the guiding principles of the Adaptation Fund, IMERCA is designed to effectively utilise Unidentified Subprojects (USPs) where necessary and required in line with the Adaptation Fund's Guidance on Projects/Programmes involving such initiatives. All USPs will undergo thorough screening in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy, using standardised safeguard screening tools throughout the PFG and implementation phases. Additionally, the project will develop and implement tailored Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Gender Action Plans (GAPs), and grievance redress mechanisms, as needed, to ensure comprehensive compliance and community engagement.

IMERCA creates a framework that enhances project integrity and promotes positive impacts on communities and ecosystems alike. This holistic approach underscores the organization's commitment to fostering resilience and sustainability in every aspect of its work.

Table 7. Applicable National and Local Standards, Compliance, and Authorisations

Standard / Regulation (Name & Number)	Objective	Relevance to IMERCA Outputs	Compliance Steps	Authorizing Body
Environmental Management Act Cap. 191[R.E,2023]	Environmental protection and sustainable development	All ecosystem restoration, slope stabilisation, and infrastructure-light interventions	Environmental screening and approval	NEMC
Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit Regulations [R.E,2018]	Regulate environmental assessments	USPs requiring screening	Site screening and ESMP approval	NEMC
Forest Act (Cap. 323, 2002)	Sustainable forest management	Forest restoration and agroforestry activities	Forest management approvals	Tanzania Forest Services (TFS)
Village Land Act Cap. 114 and Land Use Planning Act 2007	Secure village land tenure	Restoration and land-use planning	Village council resolutions	District Councils
Occupational Health and Safety Act (No. 5 of 2003)	Worker safety and health	Restoration works, construction of check dams	OHS compliance audits	OSHA
Disaster Management Act (2015)	Disaster risk management	Early warning systems and preparedness	Coordination with DRR structures	PMO-DMD
National Energy Policy (2015) and Clean Cooking Strategy (2024)	Promote clean energy access	Clean cooking interventions	Technology certification and distribution approvals	Ministry of Energy
Local Government (District Authorities) Act Cap. 287	Local governance and planning	All LGA-led interventions	Council approvals and integration	District Councils
Water Resources Management Act (2009)	Sustainable water use	Riparian and watershed restoration	Basin authority permits	Basin Water Boards

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

The proposed program and its interventions will avoid any duplication of actions and funding sources. During the conceptualisation and design of this project, consultations were held with officers from relevant Local Government authorities, including the Mbeya City Council in the Mbeya Region, the Butiama District Council in the Mara Region, and the Same District Council in the Kilimanjaro Region, and it was confirmed that no similar interventions exist in the selected wards. More consultations will be conducted during proposal development to identify any similar projects in the project areas. This will ensure that there is no duplication of projects or funding sources.

However, there are some projects in other wards of BTC and BDC that were proposed, implemented, or are currently implementing some aspects of the project. In particular, the thriving project implemented by World Vision, which is coming to an end this year, may offer useful lessons to the proposed project, especially regarding tree planting and community engagement in project interventions.

Complementarity, Synergies and Added Value with Ongoing Initiatives

The IMERCA project is designed to complement and build upon existing climate adaptation and resilience initiatives in Tanzania, enhancing overall impact through strategic synergies. While several programs address climate-smart agriculture, water management, or community resilience individually, IMERCA integrates these sectors into

a cohesive approach, thereby creating additional value.

Key Complementarities and Synergies:

- **Alignment with national and regional programs:** IMERCA is designed to align with Tanzania's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), sectoral climate strategies, and ongoing donor-supported initiatives, ensuring policy coherence and technical consistency.
- **Collaboration with ongoing projects:** The project will actively engage with NGOs, community-based organisations, and government programs, enabling knowledge sharing, resource optimisation, and avoidance of duplication.
- **Enhanced community engagement and capacity building:** By leveraging existing local networks and structures, IMERCA will continue to strengthen community ownership and sustainability of interventions.
- **Cross-sectoral integration:** The project plans to combine interventions in agriculture, water resources, and environmental management, producing holistic benefits that extend beyond the scope of individual ongoing initiatives.

Added Value: IMERCA aims to deliver meaningful benefits beyond current projects by prioritising underserved communities, advancing gender equality and social inclusion, and introducing innovative adaptation strategies tailored to local contexts. This comprehensive approach ensures that the project not only enhances but also strengthens the effectiveness of existing climate adaptation initiatives in Tanzania.

Table 8. Related Projects, Overlaps, Lessons, and Synergies

Project Title	Location	Implementing Entity	Main Interventions	Timeline	Target Population	Lessons Learned	Overlaps & Synergies with IMERCA
GCF–UNHCR Climate Resilience Project (USD 24M)	Kigoma Region	UNHCR, Government of Tanzania	Landscape restoration, refugee-host adaptation, DRR	2022–2027	Refugee and host communities	Importance of community-led watershed governance and integrated livelihoods	IMERCA adopts village-based EbA, early warning systems, and inclusive livelihood models
World Bank Community-Led Nature-Based Solutions Project (USD 2.6M)	Usangu Catchment	World Bank, LGAs	Reforestation, water security, NbS	2021–2025	Catchment communities	Value of participatory restoration and local stewardship	IMERCA integrates riparian restoration and community forestry governance
World Bank SCALE Program (USD 227M)	National	World Bank, Government of Tanzania	Locally led climate action, agroforestry, irrigation, and clean energy	2024–2030	Rural communities nationwide	Importance of devolved climate finance and community ownership	IMERCA sites positioned as SCALE demonstration landscapes

G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

The IMERCA project is designed with a strong emphasis on learning and knowledge management, which plays a crucial role in capturing, documenting, and sharing valuable lessons learned. This approach ensures that successful strategies can be effectively scaled and replicated. Key components of the project include:

By integrating learning and knowledge management into the project's design, IMERCA not only generates valuable insights but also informs policy, guides future initiatives, and contributes to a wider climate adaptation knowledge base in Tanzania and beyond.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- **NEMC:** National knowledge synthesis, policy integration, dissemination, and reporting to the Adaptation Fund.
- **Local Government Authorities (LGAs):** Site-level documentation, monitoring, reporting, and learning facilitation.
- **Community Restoration Committees and Hazard Alert Teams:** Participatory monitoring, citizen science data collection, and local learning.
- **Academic and Research Partners:** Technical backstopping, learning evaluations, and impact assessments.

To enhance the effectiveness of project monitoring and tracking, the project will implement a robust framework that includes quarterly progress reports, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) reports, and annual learning reviews and reflection workshops. Additionally, we will conduct mid-term and terminal evaluations and leverage real-time data collection through community monitoring tools and environmental information systems. This comprehensive approach will support continuous improvement and informed decision-making throughout the project.

The project is designed to enhance the long-term sustainability of the knowledge generated and shared through a structured, periodic capacity-building approach. Rather than relying on one-off trainings, the project will develop institutionalised training curricula and deliver regular refresher and cascade training through national and district-level institutions. These training sessions will be embedded in existing government training programmes to ensure continuity beyond the project lifecycle. In addition, it will actively promote the integration of valuable lessons into district development plans, land-use frameworks, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. Additionally, the project aims to institutionalise this knowledge within the National Environment Management Council's (NEMC) environmental information systems. It will also contribute to the realisation of national policies, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Furthermore, developing training curricula and technical guidelines will facilitate the replication and scaling of successful initiatives. In addition, the project will engage private-sector partners, including Open Map Development Tanzania and Telecommunications Corporations (Vodacom, Airtel, etc.), particularly in geospatial services, climate information systems, and digital platforms. Partnerships will be formalized through memoranda of understanding (MOUs) or service agreements, outlining roles in technical support, system maintenance, and potential co-financing. Discussions with relevant private-sector entities are ongoing and will be concluded during the project inception phase to ensure long-term operational and financial sustainability.

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

A comprehensive and inclusive consultative process was undertaken during the concept

development phase to ensure that the project aligns with the priorities and needs of vulnerable stakeholders residing in mountainous regions who depend on mountain ecosystems. These areas have recently experienced adverse effects from climate-induced hazards, including mudslides, flash floods, and the degradation of ecosystem services. Initial consultations were conducted between February and May 2025 in selected wards and districts across the Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, and Mara regions, which were identified as high-risk zones.

The consultations utilized a combination of field visits, community dialogues, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Participatory methods, such as transect walks and mapping exercises, were employed to identify critical issues, including land degradation, gaps in early warning systems, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Special emphasis was placed on collecting gender-disaggregated data and utilising gender-sensitive facilitation techniques to ensure the inclusion of women, youth, elders, and marginalised groups.

Throughout the consultation process, engagement from the national gender machinery was well-represented, including participation from the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG), the Regional Gender Desks in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, and Mara, and District Community Development Officers. Additionally, organisations such as the Kilimanjaro Women Farmers' Cooperative Union (KIFACU), Mbeya Women Green Entrepreneurs Network, Mara Women Agroforestry Association, Same Women Savings and Credit Groups, and Butiama Women Environmental Conservation Group participated.

The outcomes of these consultations provided essential input for designing each project component and informed the identification of green livelihood activities and clean energy solutions suitable for mountain environments. Further stakeholder engagement will be conducted during the full proposal development phase to ensure ongoing alignment with community needs and institutional priorities.

Table 9. Consultation Participants (Disaggregated Summary)

Location	Total	Women	Men	Youth (18-35)	Notes
Mamba Miamba (Same)	140	78	62	46	We used separate women's Focus group discussions, youth climate groups, and included traditional leaders
Butiama Mara	120	52	68	34	
Kawetere Mbeya	160	96	64	58	
National technical team	45	20	25	10	National Technical Workshop
TOTAL	465	246	219	148	

Table 10. Consultation Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Roles and Contributions
Local Communities	Participated in identifying vulnerabilities, traditional knowledge on restoration practices, and provided input on livelihood needs and risk-prone zones. Specific groups consulted included women's groups, youth associations, and elders.
Ward and Village Leaders	Offered insights into historical land use, socio-economic challenges, and governance issues, including enforcement of land-use regulations.
Local Government Authorities (LGAs)	Shared institutional capacity gaps in early warning systems, land use enforcement, and disaster preparedness. Supported the mobilization of communities and technical staff for the consultation

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	process.
Sector Ministries	Ministries such as Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism, Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and the Disaster Management Department under the Prime Minister's Office were engaged to ensure national policy alignment and technical input.
Vice President's Office (NDA to the Adaptation Fund)	Provided strategic guidance, national alignment, and coordination support throughout the consultation and planning processes.
Private Sector and Microfinance Institutions	Consulted to assess opportunities and barriers for linking mountain-based livelihoods to markets and promoting clean energy technologies.
Academic and Research Institutions	Provided technical input on ecosystem management, land use planning, and conservation strategies. Institutions such as Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and Ardhi University were identified as potential partners.
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	Local NGOs and CBOs including the most active Tanzania Environmental Protection Organization (TAEPO), Climate African Network Tanzania (CANTz) and CARE International, were engaged for their experience in community mobilization and ecosystem restoration work.

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

The funding requested for the IMERCA project is crucial for addressing the comprehensive adaptations needed to effectively combat the multifaceted climate vulnerabilities faced by the targeted communities. These communities are grappling with significant challenges, including erratic rainfall patterns, devastating flooding, soil degradation, and alarming water scarcity, all of which pose serious threats to livelihoods, ecosystems, and local economies. To confront these pressing issues, a thorough, multi-sectoral approach is essential, as local resources from communities, local governments, or existing programs often fall short of fully meeting these complex needs.

Rationale for Full Cost Funding:

- **Holistic Adaptation Needs:** The IMERCA project integrates a diverse array of interventions across critical sectors such as agriculture, water resource management, and community resilience. This comprehensive strategy ensures we implement cohesive, multifaceted adaptation measures rather than piecemeal solutions that may not yield significant long-term benefits.
- **Focus on Vulnerable Populations:** By prioritising marginalised and climate-vulnerable populations who often lack the financial resources and technical expertise to effectively implement adaptation strategies on their own, IMERCA aims to create pathways for equitable access to innovative climate-resilient technologies and sustainable practices. Full funding is essential to empower these communities to thrive in the face of adversity.
- **Additionality:** The requested funding will specifically target adaptation actions that are not funded by ongoing development programs or other sources. This commitment guarantees that the project produces unique, transformative benefits that enhance the community's resilience rather than merely substituting existing investments, fostering a culture of innovation and progress.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Complete funding will allow the project to establish durable and climate-resilient infrastructure, implement robust knowledge management systems, and facilitate extensive community capacity-building activities. These components are vital for achieving meaningful and lasting

adaptation outcomes, ensuring that communities can confidently navigate future climate challenges.

So far, the requested funding represents a vital investment in the full cost of adaptation, providing the essential resources needed to implement effective, inclusive, and sustainable climate adaptation measures. By directly reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience in the targeted areas, IMERCA aims to build a brighter, more sustainable future for its communities.

J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.

Sustainability lies at the heart of the IMERCA project, reflecting a commitment to ensuring that the benefits of climate adaptation initiatives endure far beyond the project's duration. By integrating a multifaceted approach, the project aspires to cultivate environmental, social, and institutional sustainability.

Key Measures to Foster Sustainability:

- **Community Ownership and Capacity Building:** IMERCA champions the proactive involvement of local communities, including women, youth, and marginalised populations, in all stages of planning, implementation, and monitoring. Tailored training and capacity-building initiatives empower community members with vital knowledge and hands-on skills, equipping them to independently sustain and replicate effective adaptation measures in their own contexts.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Collaborating closely with local government authorities, community-based organizations, and relevant sectoral agencies, the project intricately weaves climate adaptation strategies into the fabric of existing development planning and policies. This strategic alliance not only promotes institutional support but also ensures a seamless continuation of adaptation efforts long after the project concludes.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** The project's adaptation initiatives, including innovative practices such as climate-smart agriculture, comprehensive water resource management, and ecosystem-based approaches, are meticulously crafted to enhance the resilience of natural resources. These interventions aim to reduce environmental degradation and safeguard ecological balance, thereby nurturing a thriving habitat for future generations.
- **Economic Sustainability:** By creating pathways for income-generating, climate-resilient livelihoods and establishing robust connections between communities and market opportunities, IMERCA ensures that adaptation measures are economically sustainable. This approach not only supports beneficiaries in the present but also fosters financial independence and resilience in the face of future climate challenges.
- **Knowledge Management and Replication:** The project places a strong emphasis on documenting and disseminating valuable lessons learned and best practices. By sharing these insights widely, IMERCA facilitates the scaling-up and replication of successful strategies in other vulnerable regions, ensuring a ripple effect of knowledge and adaptability.

Through these richly descriptive measures, the IMERCA project aspires to deliver immediate impacts in climate resilience while simultaneously cultivating enduring social, environmental, and institutional benefits. This holistic approach ensures that the

project's outcomes remain effective and sustainable, ultimately contributing to a more resilient future.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

The project triggers several ESMP principles, namely natural habitats, climate change, gender equity, vulnerable groups, and access to information, but all potential adverse risks are small-scale, reversible, and can be managed using standard mitigation tools. The Environmental Information Centers involve minor civil works that are fully contained within public land and do not require land acquisition or resettlement. Restoration and NBS activities enhance ecosystem services and do not result in negative environmental impacts. With no significant, irreversible, or cumulative risks, the project fits well within **AF Category B requirements**.

Table 11. Environmental and Social Policy & Gender Policy Compliance Screening

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
<i>Compliance with the Law</i>	(√)	
<i>Access and Equity</i>		Women, youth, PWDs and elderly persons may have unequal access to training, clean cooking technologies, or livelihood opportunities due to social norms or mobility constraints.
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>		Chronically poor families, widows, land-poor households and people with disabilities may be unintentionally excluded from project benefits or group-based enterprises.
<i>Human Rights</i>	(√)	No rights violations
<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>		Women face limited access to land, finance and leadership roles. Restoration activities could unintentionally increase labour burdens or reinforce gender inequality- to be addressed by implementing GAP/GESI
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>	(√)	Only voluntary community labour-compliance with labour standards and guidelines
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	(√)	Only traditional people and practices need to be observed
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>	(√)	No land acquisition or displacement foreseen only evacuation if under threat of landslides and/or floods
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>	Assess sensitive ecological areas for restoration	Screening and ANR safeguards are required
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>	(√)	Risks of non-native/invasive species, disturbance of the ecology may arise during restoration and stabilisation of

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		slopes – Conduct ecological screening
<i>Climate Change</i>	Risks and vulnerability assessment on climate change.	Inform the project plans and executions under the climate change era
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	(✓)	Small construction activities may generate waste (cement, packaging, debris). Implement a waste handling and management plan
<i>Public Health</i>		Construction poses minimal OHS risks; households may not fully adopt clean cooking, resulting in continued indoor air pollution. – provide PPE and Health and safety induction before work
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>		No known heritage sites affected
<i>Land and Soil Conservation</i>		Earthworks for slope stabilisation may cause temporary soil disturbance or erosion if implemented poorly. - Apply erosion control methods (mulching, use of deep-rooted grass for soil and slope stabilisation, erosion control, land restoration and contour planting); conduct works in dry seasons; supervise by LGA engineers.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

Table 12. Project Alignment with AF Results Framework

Project Objective(s) 1	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Objective 1 To reduce climate-induced landslide and flood risks by stabilising high-risk slopes using nature-based and bio-engineering solutions.	1.1 Hectares of high-risk slopes stabilised. 1.2 Number of people protected by slope stabilisation measures. 1.3 Reduction in observed slope failures/landslides.	AF Outcome 1: Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats.	AF Outcome indicator 1.1: Number of communities with reduced exposure to climate hazards and threats.	3,234,532
Objective 2. To restore degraded mountain ecosystems to enhance ecosystem services critical for climate resilience.	2.1 Hectares restored. 2.2 Measurable improvements in ecosystem health (vegetation, soil erosion, water flow). 2.3 Number of communities benefiting from restored ecosystems.	AF Outcome 5: Increased ecosystem resilience.	5.1: area of ecosystem restored and/or sustainably managed (ha)	2,564,700
Objective 3. To strengthen community and institutional	3.1 Number and category of people trained. 3.2 Number of LGAs using early-warning information.	AF Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of	3.1: Number of people with increased awareness of climate risks.	1,358,900

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capacity for climate risk management, including climate-informed early warning and hazard alert systems.	3.3 Number of functional community hazard-alert systems.	climate risk reduction processes. AF Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce climate-induced risks.	2.1: Number of institutions with enhanced capacity.	
Objective 4. To diversify and strengthen climate-resilient, green livelihoods, particularly for women and youth, while reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems.	4.1 % households with diversified climate-resilient income. 4.2 Number of women and youth-led MSMEs supported. 4.3 % of households adopt clean cooking solutions.	AF Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods for vulnerable people.	6.1: Number of households with diversified, climate-resilient livelihoods.	3,234,500
Objective 5 To generate, institutionalize and scale evidence and lessons on mountain ecosystem-based adaptation into national and sub-national policies and planning frameworks	5.1 Number of policies/strategies integrating project evidence. 5.2 Number of knowledge products informing policy 5.3 Number of policy dialogues/learning events.	AF Outcome 7: Improved policies and regulations promoting climate resilience.	7.1: Number of policies/strategies modified to integrate climate resilience.	1,425,550
Total Objective level grants amount				11,818,182
Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Output	Adaptation Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1 Climate-induced landslides and flood risks in targeted mountain ecosystems are reduced through Nature-Based Solutions and Community-Based Risk Management.	1.1 % reduction in landslide/flood incidents. 1.2 Number of people protected by risk-reduction assets. 1.3 Hectares of slopes stabilized.	AF Output 4.1: Adequate risk-reduction systems cover targeted population groups. AF Output 6.1: Physical assets strengthened or constructed to withstand climate variability and change.	4.1.1: Number of people covered by climate-risk reduction systems 6.1.1: Number of physical assets strengthened/constructed	3,234,532
Outcome 2 2. Ecosystem services (water, soil, biodiversity) restored and safeguarded.	2.1 Hectares restored. 2.2 Improvement in ecosystem services. 2.3 Number of governance structures strengthened.	AF Output 5.1: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resources strengthened. AF Output 2.1: Institutional capacity	5.1.1: Number of natural assets restored/enhanced 2.1.1: Number of institutions with strengthened capacity.	2,564,700

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		strengthened to reduce climate-related risks.		
Outcome 3 Communities and LGAs have strengthened their capacity to anticipate and manage climate hazards.	3.1 % of the population is aware of risks. 3.2 Functional hazard alert systems. 3.3 LGAs using the Early Warning System	AF Output 3.1: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk-reduction awareness activities. AF Output 1.2: Development of an early-warning system	3.1.1: Number of men and women trained in climate-risk awareness. 1.2.1: Number of early-warning systems operational and providing coverage.	1,358,900
Outcome 4 Vulnerable households have diversified and climate-resilient livelihoods.	4.1 % of households have diversified income. 4.2 # women/youth MSMEs supported. 4.3 % reduction in fuelwood use.	AF Output 6.2: Increased access to livelihood assets AF Output 5.1: Natural resources protected through improved practices.	6.2.1: Number of households with increased livelihood assets. 5.1.1: Natural assets protected or strengthened.	3,234,500
Outcome 5 Evidence and lessons inform national/subnational policy and practice	5.1 Number of knowledge products. 5.2 Number of policies integrating lessons. 5.3 Number of learning events. 5.4 Number of operational information centres.	AF Output 7.1: Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into policies and plans. AF Output 3.1: Knowledge generated for adaptation decision-making AF Output 2.1: Institutional capacity strengthened to access and use climate information.	7.1.1: Number of policies/strategies modified to incorporate climate resilience. 3.1.2: Number of knowledge products generated and disseminated. 2.1.1: Number of institutions receiving and using climate information.	1,425,550
Total outcome level grant amount				11,818,182

Annex 4 provides the **Budget Disaggregated by AF Outputs, Indicators and Components**. The budget has been structured to ensure that each Adaptation Fund Output and its corresponding indicators have a transparent, traceable cost allocation. This disaggregation ensures accurate monitoring, transparent financial reporting, and alignment between expenditures and the AF Results Framework. Below is the summary table

Table 13. Summary table by AF Outputs

AF Code	AF Output	Budget Allocation (USD)
4.1	Targeted population groups covered by adequate risk-reduction systems	1,950,000

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6.1	Physical assets strengthened/constructed to withstand climate variability & change	850,000
5.1	Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resources strengthened	3,072,100
2.1	Institutional capacity strengthened to reduce climate-related risks	1,230,427
3.1	Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and climate-risk awareness & knowledge products	885,506
1.2	Early-warning systems developed or improved	827,961
6.2	Increased access to climate-resilient livelihood assets	2,020,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (USD)		11,818,182

¹ The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

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

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

<i>Prof. Peter Lawrance Makenga Msoffe, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vice President's Office</i>	Date: <i>August, 8th, 2025</i>
---	--------------------------------

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

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans National Environmental Policy (20210; National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021-2026); Nationally Determined Contributions (2021-2030); National Adaptation Program of Action (2007); National Environmental Master Plan for Strategic Interventions (2022-2032); Tanzania Development Vision 2025-2050) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to

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implementing the project/program in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender 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.	
<i>Fredrick F. Mulinda</i>  Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date: <i>August 1st 2025</i>	Tel. and email: +255 753 240 517 nieaf@nemc.or.tz / kasigazi.koku@gmail.com
Project Contact Person: Paul Kalokola	
Tel. And Email: +255 784 448 356 / paul.kalokola@nemc.or.tz	

⁶. Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

Government Endorsement

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

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Our Ref. No: CBA.78/90/03

08th August, 2025

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

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT FOR INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT (IMERCA)**

Please refer to the above subject.

2. In my capacity as the designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Tanzania, I confirm that the above national grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Tanzania.
3. Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented and executed by National Environment Management Council.
4. Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Msolle'.

Prof. Peter L.M. Msolle

NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY- DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY

Annex 1: Project Formulation Grant Request



Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: August 6, 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID: [To be assigned]

Country/ies: Tanzania

Title of Project/Programme: Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA)

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): NIE

Implementing Entity: National Environment Management Council (NEMC)

Executing Entity/ies: National Environment Management Council (NEMC)

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG:	May 1, 2026
Completion date of PFG:	September 30, 2026

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget Note
Ecosystem and climate impact assessments	Baseline data on mountain ecosystems and climate risks	45,000	Costs for field surveys, remote sensing, and expert analysis
Community engagement workshops and gender analysis	Stakeholder input for restoration and adaptation strategies	37,500	Includes logistics, facilitation, and materials for community meetings
Development of a project monitoring framework	Indicators and monitoring plan for project outcomes	27,500	Technical expertise for designing robust monitoring systems
Drafting a full project proposal	Comprehensive proposal for country cap modality	27,500	Staff time, technical expertise, and stakeholder coordination for proposal development
Implementing Entity Fee	Compliant Adaptation Fund full project proposal developed and submitted, with fiduciary safeguards,	12,750	Overall project management, governance, and strategic oversight

	gender, and stakeholder engagement requirements fully met		
Total Project Formulation Grant		150,000	

C. Description and Justifications for PFG Activities:

- **Ecosystem and climate impact assessments (\$45,000):** Conducting extensive field surveys and remote sensing to assess the state of mountain ecosystems and their vulnerability to climate change. This is essential to design targeted restoration and adaptation interventions under the country cap modality. The PFG will also support detailed project design activities, including preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Initial Gender Assessment, and Gender Action Plan, in accordance with Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy requirements. A dedicated Implementing Entity fee line item has been included in the PFG budget.
- **Community engagement workshops (\$37,500):** Engaging local communities through multiple workshops to ensure their priorities shape the project, fostering ownership and sustainability. Costs cover facilitation, travel, and materials for inclusive engagement.
- **Development of project monitoring framework (\$27,500):** Establishing detailed indicators and a comprehensive monitoring plan to track restoration and adaptation outcomes, ensuring alignment with Adaptation Fund requirements.
- **Drafting full project proposal (\$27,500):** Developing a comprehensive proposal that meets the country cap modality criteria, incorporating stakeholder inputs, technical assessments, and iterative revisions.

D. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation.

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Fredrick F. Mulinda		August 6, 2025	Paul Kalokola	+255 784 448 356	Paul.kalokola@nemc.or.tz

Annex 2: Justification for serving as both IE and EE



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL
(NEMC)



JUSTIFICATION PAPER

Request for the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to Serve as Executing Entity for the proposed: “Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA)” Submitted to the Adaptation Fund

1. Introduction

The United Republic of Tanzania, through its National Implementing Entity (NIE), the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), has submitted a Concept Note to the Adaptation Fund titled “**Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA)**”. This project addresses the escalating vulnerability of Tanzania’s mountain ecosystems and adjacent communities to climate-induced disasters, such as mudslides, floods, and land degradation, which threaten lives, livelihoods, and critical ecological systems.

In accordance with the **Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPGs)** of the Adaptation Fund, which require a written justification and endorsement by the Designated Authority when an Implementing Entity seeks to undertake execution functions, this paper provides a robust legal and institutional justification for NEMC to serve as both the Implementing Entity (IE) and Executing Entity (EE) for the IMERCA project. This justification is grounded exclusively in the provisions of the **Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191** (the "Act"), with specific emphasis on strengthening Part 3 (Legal and Institutional Mandate of NEMC) of the Justification Paper and extending to other relevant parts.

This paper ensures that the legal basis for NEMC’s role is indisputable, accurate, and compelling, aligning with the Act and the objectives of the IMERCA project to meet the Adaptation Fund’s requirements.

2. Context and Urgency of the IMERCA Project

Tanzania’s mountain ecosystems, including those in regions such as Manyara, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, and Morogoro, are increasingly susceptible to climate-induced disasters, notably mudslides, as evidenced by recent incidents at Hanang Mountain, Kawetere Mountain, and Mambamiamba Mountains. These events have caused significant loss of life, property damage, and disruption of livelihoods, exacerbated by environmental degradation from deforestation, unregulated land use, and unsustainable agricultural practices. The IMERCA project seeks to restore these fragile ecosystems, enhance climate resilience, and protect vulnerable communities through ecosystem-based interventions.

Given the specialized nature of the project, which involves the management, protection, and restoration of environmentally sensitive mountain areas, NEMC’s legal mandate and institutional capacity, as derived from the Act, make it uniquely positioned to execute the project effectively, as detailed below.

3. Legal and Institutional Mandate of NEMC

The **Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191** provides a clear and unambiguous legal framework that designates NEMC as the primary authority for coordinating, regulating, and managing environmental protection activities, including those related to mountain ecosystems. The following provisions from the Act reinforce NEMC's mandate to serve as both the Implementing Entity and Executing Entity for the IMERCA project:

3.1. Legal Authority to Declare and Manage Sensitive Areas

- **Section 16(1):** The Act establishes NEMC as the National Environment Management Council and empowers the Minister responsible for the environment, upon NEMC's recommendation, to declare any area—including mountainous areas—as environmentally sensitive. This authority positions NEMC as the lead institution to identify and recommend mountain ecosystems for special protection, a critical component of the IMERCA project's objective to designate and restore disaster-prone mountain areas.
- **Section 47:** The Minister, acting on NEMC's advice, may declare any area of land as an **environmental protected area** to safeguard its ecological integrity. Mountain ecosystems, such as those targeted by the IMERCA project, fall within this category due to their vulnerability to climate-induced disasters and ecological fragility. NEMC's role in advising on such declarations ensures its centrality in initiating and overseeing the protection of these areas.
- **Section 51:** The Act specifically empowers the Minister, through NEMC's recommendations, to declare areas as **environmentally sensitive areas** when they are at risk of significant environmental degradation. The IMERCA project's focus on mountain ecosystems, which are prone to mudslides and degradation, aligns directly with this provision, as NEMC is tasked with identifying and managing such areas.

3.2. Mandate to Coordinate and Enforce Environmental Management

- **Section 18(1):** NEMC is mandated to identify and recommend environmentally fragile ecosystems for special protection and to coordinate activities for their conservation. This provision directly supports NEMC's role in the IMERCA project, as it involves identifying mountain ecosystems (e.g., Hanang, Kawetere, and Uluguru Mountains) for restoration and implementing protective measures to mitigate climate risks.
- **Section 104(1)(a):** NEMC is designated as the national body responsible for enforcing environmental standards, including in declared sensitive ecosystems. This enforcement authority is critical for the IMERCA project, which requires regulatory oversight to prevent activities such as deforestation, unregulated cultivation, and mining that exacerbate mudslides and land degradation. NEMC's legal power to enforce compliance ensures that project activities align with national environmental standards.
- **Section 17(g):** NEMC is tasked with promoting environmental awareness and coordinating the preparation of environmental management plans. This mandate supports the IMERCA project's goals of developing ecosystem management plans and engaging communities in restoration and adaptation activities, ensuring that NEMC can execute these tasks effectively.

3.3. Stakeholder Engagement and Benefit Sharing

- **Section 17(e):** NEMC is tasked with facilitating cooperation among stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and private entities, in environmental management. This mandate aligns with the IMERCA project's objective of engaging communities and other stakeholders in restoration and climate adaptation activities, ensuring equitable participation and benefit sharing.
- **Section 105:** The Act empowers NEMC to coordinate the sustainable use of natural resources, which includes ensuring that benefits from protected areas are shared equitably with local communities. This

provision supports the IMERCA project’s goal of enhancing community resilience through sustainable economic benefits derived from ecosystem restoration.

These provisions collectively establish NEMC as the sole institution with the explicit legal mandate to coordinate, regulate, and manage environmentally sensitive areas, including mountain ecosystems, making it the most suitable entity to execute the IMERCA project.

4. Strengthening the Rationale for Direct Execution by NEMC

The Justification Paper’s rationale for NEMC’s direct execution (Part 5) is further reinforced by the Act, which provides additional legal and operational grounds for NEMC to serve as the Executing Entity:

4.1. Legal Exclusivity and Accountability

- **Section 16(1) and 18(1)** designate NEMC as the primary institution for recommending and coordinating the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, ensuring that no other entity can lawfully assume primary responsibility for managing mountain ecosystems. Delegating execution to another entity would risk diluting NEMC’s legal accountability and authority, potentially leading to regulatory gaps and delays in addressing urgent climate-induced risks like mudslides.
- **Section 104(1)(a)** reinforces NEMC’s exclusive role in enforcing environmental standards, ensuring that execution remains within NEMC’s direct control and aligns with its legal mandate to protect fragile ecosystems.

4.2. Specialized Nature of Activities

- The IMERCA project involves activities such as designating protected areas, developing management plans, enforcing land use regulations, and conducting environmental audits, all of which are explicitly assigned to NEMC under **Sections 47, 51, 81, and 104**. These activities require specialized regulatory and technical expertise that only NEMC possesses under Tanzanian law.
- **Section 18(1)** mandates NEMC to coordinate conservation activities in fragile ecosystems, which aligns with the IMERCA project’s objectives of restoring ecosystems and preventing degradation. NEMC’s authority to oversee these activities ensures that project implementation is legally sound and effective.

4.3. Institutional Efficiency and Coherence

- By serving as both IE and EE, NEMC eliminates bureaucratic layers, streamlines decision-making, and ensures coherence between policy objectives and field-level implementation. **Section 17(g)** empowers NEMC to coordinate environmental management plans, ensuring that the IMERCA project’s activities are integrated into national environmental frameworks.
- **Section 105** supports NEMC’s role in managing resources sustainably, allowing it to oversee financial aspects of the project, such as benefit sharing, to ensure accountability and sustainability.

4.4. Risk Mitigation and Urgency

- **Section 51** enables NEMC to recommend the declaration of sensitive areas, ensuring a rigorous and transparent process for designating mountain ecosystems for restoration. This provision is critical for addressing the urgent need to mitigate climate-induced disasters, as highlighted in the Justification Paper.
- **Section 104(1)(b)** allows NEMC to conduct environmental audits to address ongoing activities that may exacerbate risks, enabling rapid and adaptive management of mountain ecosystems in response to emerging climate threats.

5. Technical Capacity and Previous Experience

The Justification Paper (Part 4) highlights NEMC's technical capacity and experience in managing mountain ecosystems. The Act further reinforces this capacity:

- **Section 17(c)** mandates NEMC to undertake research and technical assessments, which support its experience in developing ecosystem management plans for areas like Mount Kawetere.
- **Section 17(e)** empowers NEMC to engage stakeholders, ensuring effective community involvement in the IMERCA project's restoration and adaptation activities.
- **Section 81 and 104(1)(b)** confirm NEMC's expertise in conducting EIAs and audits, critical for ensuring that project activities comply with environmental standards.

NEMC's decentralised offices, as noted in this Justification Paper, enable efficient field-level execution, while its fiduciary management experience ensures compliance with the Adaptation Fund's standards.

6. Conclusion and Request for Approval

The **Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191** provides a robust and unassailable legal foundation for NEMC to serve as both the Implementing Entity and Executing Entity for the IMERCA project. NEMC's exclusive mandate under **Sections 16, 18, 47, 51, 81, 104, and 105** to coordinate, regulate, and manage environmentally sensitive areas, including mountain ecosystems, ensures that it is the only institution legally empowered to execute the project's specialised activities. These provisions align seamlessly with the IMERCA project's objectives of restoring ecosystems, enforcing environmental standards, and engaging communities, while NEMC's technical capacity and experience guarantee effective implementation.

We respectfully request the Adaptation Fund Board to approve NEMC's role as the Executing Entity for the **Integrated Mountain Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Adaptation Project (IMERCA)**, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Operational Policies and Guidelines. The attached letter from the Designated Authority of the United Republic of Tanzania endorses this justification.

NEMC reaffirms its commitment to transparent, accountable, and effective execution of the IMERCA project, safeguarding Tanzania's mountain ecosystems and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Submitted by:

Fredrick F. Mulinda

NIE Coordinator, National Environment Management Council (NEMC)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

August 2025

Annex 3: DA endorsement of NEMC serving as both IE and EE in this project

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

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40405 DODOMA.

Our Ref. No: CBA.78/90/03

08th August, 2025

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

**SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION FOR NEMC TO EXECUTE PROJECT
ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CONCEPT NOTE: INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT (IMERCA)**

Dear Members of the Adaptation Fund Board,

2. In accordance with the Operational Policies and Guidelines of the Adaptation Fund, which permit Implementing Entities (IEs) to undertake execution of project activities only under exceptional circumstances and with written justification endorsed by the Designated Authority, I am pleased to endorse the request by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to act as both the Implementing Entity (IE) and the Executing Entity (EE) for the proposed project titled:

"Enhancing Mountain Ecosystem Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction in Tanzania."

3. This endorsement is based on the following considerations:

- i. **Legal Mandate:** NEMC is the government agency mandated under the **Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191** to lead in the protection, monitoring, and enforcement of environmental regulations, especially in environmentally sensitive ecosystems such as mountains.
- ii. **Technical Capacity:** NEMC has the technical and institutional capacity required to execute the project effectively, including specialized teams, regional presence, and experience with similar ecosystem management and climate adaptation initiatives.
- iii. **Necessity of Direct Execution:** Due to the regulatory and enforcement nature of the proposed interventions, delegating execution to another agency would not align with Tanzania's legal framework and could compromise the effectiveness and accountability of implementation.

4. As the Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in the United Republic of Tanzania, I therefore fully endorse NEMC's justification and request that the Adaptation Fund Board kindly consider and approve NEMC's request to serve as the Executing Entity for this important project. The detailed justification for this request is attached with the Concept Note for your reference.

5. We appreciate the continued support of the Adaptation Fund in strengthening national capacities to build resilience against climate change impacts.

Prof. Peter L.M. Msoffe

NATIONAL DESIGNATED AUTHORITY- DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY

Annex 4: Budget Disaggregated by AF Outputs, Indicators and Components

AF Output	AF Indicator	Linked Project Output	Component (s)	Estimated Budget (USD)
4.1 – Targeted population groups covered by adequate risk-reduction systems	4.1.1 – Number of people covered by climate-risk reduction measures	1.1 Mapping & prioritisation of high-risk slopes 1.2 Community-based risk reduction (buffers, bunds, check dams)	C1	1,950,000
6.1 – Physical assets strengthened or constructed to withstand climate variability and change	6.1.1 – Number of physical assets constructed or strengthened	5.3 Construction and equipping of 3 Environmental Information Centres	C5	850,000
5.1 – Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resources strengthened	5.1.1 – Natural assets restored or enhanced	1.2 Community bioengineering & slope stabilisation 2.1 Restoration (ANR, enrichment planting, riparian zones) 4.3 Clean cooking adoption reducing pressure on ecosystems	C1, C2, C4	3,072,100
2.1 – Institutional capacity strengthened to reduce climate-related risks	2.1.1 – Number of institutions with strengthened capacity	2.2 Ecosystem governance by-laws & joint plans 3.2 Community hazard alert operationalisation 5.1 MEL system establishment 5.3 Information Centres operational protocols	C2, C3, C5	1,230,427
3.1 – Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk-reduction awareness activities	3.1.1 – Number of men and women trained in climate-risk awareness	3.1 Community climate-risk awareness	C3	510,000
1.2 – Early-warning systems developed or improved	1.2.1 – Number of early-warning systems operational	3.2 Community-based hazard alert systems linked to national EWS	C3	827,961
6.2 – Increased access to climate-resilient livelihood assets	6.2.1 – Number of households with diversified/climate-resilient livelihood assets	4.1 Green value chains 4.2 Women & youth MSMEs supported	C4	2,020,000
3.1 – Knowledge and awareness strengthened for resilient decision-making	3.1.2 – Number of knowledge products generated/disseminated	5.2 Knowledge products & policy integration	C5	375,506
2.1 – Institutional capacity strengthened (second application)	2.1.1 – Number of institutions accessing and using climate/environmental information	5.3 Environmental Information Centres supporting LGA data access	C5	(Budget included above – not double-counted)