



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.38/48
20-21 October 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-eights Meeting
Bonn, Germany 20-21 October 2026

Agenda Item 10 a)

PROPOSAL FOR ADAPTATION FUND CLIMATE INNOVATION ACCELERATOR (AFCIA) PROGRAMME II DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA (CAF)

Background

1. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and

(b) To request the secretariat:

(i) To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;

(ii) To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and

(iii) To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.

(Decision B.30/42)

2. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph (b) (ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

3. At its thirty-first meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed document the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

(a) To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);

(b) To request the secretariat:

[...]

(iii) To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;

- (iv) Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and*

[...]

(Decision B.31/32)

4. Accordingly, a Call for Expressions of Interest was issued to MIEs in August 2018 (see Annex 1), requesting such submissions of expressions of interest to be submitted by the Deadline of September 17th, 2018, to the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat. The Call for Expressions of Interest provided a background to the initiative, as well as the objectives, provisional criteria, and guidance on the learning aspect of the initiative.

5. At its thirty-second meeting, having considered the comments and recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To select and invite both the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme to serve as the multilateral implementing entity (MIE) aggregator(s) for small grants for innovation;*
- (b) To request the secretariat to prepare a joint announcement of the initiative in conjunction with the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;*
- (c) To request the secretariat to develop guidance to the MIE aggregators for preparing proposals for small grant programmes for innovation;*
- (d) To establish a task force that would advise the secretariat on the development of the guidance; and*
- (e) To invite the two MIE aggregators to prepare respective proposals for the consideration of the Board.*

(Decision B.32/5)

6. The two programmes were developed in tandem and launched jointly as Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA), the initiative first announced by the Adaptation Fund at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid in December 2019, and subsequently announced as operational in November 2020 by the Fund together with UNDP and UNEP/Climate and Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). Since then, AFCIA has been topped up by a contribution from the European Commission of EUR 10 million.

7. The Adaptation Fund Board, through Decision B.39/61, approved the Fund's second and current Medium-Term Strategy (MTS II) for the 2023 – 2027 period. In its implementation it will continue to build on the work carried out under the previous MTS (2018-2022), which included the implementation of AFCIA. As part of MTS II, the Fund also seeks to further enhance and expand its support for locally-led adaptation (LLA) by fostering innovation and creating a portfolio of diverse and locally appropriate innovation projects and programmes, and thus contribute to its

mission of accelerating effective adaptation action, innovation and learning in developing countries.

8. The expected results (ERs) for the innovation pillar under MTS II have been defined as follows:

- (i) New innovations and risk-taking encouraged and accelerated – Development of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies encouraged and accelerated, including solutions with high impact potential even if it comes with a higher risk of failure.
- (ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up – Innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies that have demonstrated success in one country spread to new countries/regions or are scaled up from smaller to larger scales.
- (iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation – Access and capacities enhanced, knowledge generated, and awareness raised, for implementing entities and non-accredited actors to design and implement innovative adaptation solutions.
- (iv) Evidence base generated and shared (linkage with learning and sharing pillar) – Evidence on the conditions that lead to successful innovation generated and shared, and partnerships, iteration, learning, and adaptive management encouraged. Evidence of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies generated as a basis for implementing entities and other funds to assess scaling up.

9. In line with the MTS II and following consultations with the members of the Innovation Task Force of the Board, the secretariat issued a Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) with a view of the continuation and expansion of AFCIA to include additional multilateral and regional implementing entities (IEs) with capacity to administer small innovation grants in vulnerable regions and in relevant sectors.

10. Subsequently, the secretariat circulated the Call for Regional and Multilateral Implementing Entities to express their interest in applying for funding to support and expand AFCIA on the 20th of January 2023. IEs were invited to submit expressions of interest to the AFB Secretariat no later than the deadline of February 20, 2023. By the deadline, the secretariat had received five submissions, which were presented in document AFB/PPRC.31/58.

11. The secretariat also presented Document AFB/PPRC.31/59 concerning the 'Operational Policy and Guidance to Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) Implementing Entities', in line with the Medium-term Strategy (MTS II) 2023-2027.

12. Having considered the recommendations of the Project and Programme Review Committee concerning documents AFB/PPRC.31/58 and AFB/PPRC.31/59, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To invite the Pacific Community (SPC) to develop a programme proposal for an amount of up to US\$ 5,000,000;

- (b) To invite the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to develop a programme proposal for an amount up to US\$ 5,000,000;*
- (c) To invite the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a programme proposal for an amount up to US\$ 10,000,000;*
- (d) To invite the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to develop a programme proposal for an amount up to US\$ 10,000,000;*
- (e) To invite the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to develop a programme proposal for an amount up to US\$ 10,000,000;*
- (f) To invite the implementing entities (IEs) to prepare a programme proposal using the process elaborated in document AFB/PPRC.31/59 for the consideration of the Board at its forty-first meeting;*
- (g) To invite UNEP, UNIDO and WFP to submit a proposal on extending coordination services to the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) partnership for consideration by the Project and Programme Review Committee at its thirty-second meeting;*
- (h) To request the selected IEs to indicate acceptance by letter to the Chair of the Board by no later than two weeks following the date of the official invitation notification;*
- (i) To request the secretariat to increase the outreach to IEs regarding the AFCIA partnership.*

(Decision B.40/57)

13. Pursuant to decision B.40/57 subparagraph (h), all selected IEs indicated acceptance following the official invitation notification.

14. In June 2025, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat issued a second Call for Expressions of Interest from Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs) and Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) with the capacity to serve as small grant aggregators and strengthen innovation efforts in climate change adaptation. RIEs and MIEs were invited to submit expressions of interest to the AFB Secretariat no later than that cutoff date of 10th August, 2025.

15. By the deadline, EOIs proposals were submitted by the following Regional and Multilateral Implementing Entities of the Fund: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF); European Bank Official Use Only 4 for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development); UN Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

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

- (a) To invite Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) to develop a programme proposal for an amount of up to US\$ 8 million;*

(b) To invite European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to develop a programme proposal for an amount of up to US\$ 15 million;

(c) To invite International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to develop a programme proposal for an amount of up to US\$ 10 million;

(d) To invite the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) (IBRD) to develop a programme proposal for an amount of up to US\$ 15 million;

(e) To invite the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a programme proposal for an amount of up to US\$ 15 million;

(f) To invite the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to develop three regional programme proposals for up to US\$ 5 million each for the Asia-Pacific, Arab and African States, and to consider submitting them under the Large Grants for Innovation funding window;

(g) To request the implementing entities invited under subparagraphs (a)–(f) above to indicate acceptance of the invitation to join the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator partnership;

(h) To invite the implementing entities to prepare programme proposals, in line with the full cost of adaptation principle, using the process elaborated in document AFB/PPRC.31/59, for the consideration of the Board at its forty-sixth meeting.

(Decision B.45/44)

17. Pursuant to decision B.45/44 subparagraph (h), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) indicated acceptance the official invitation notification.

18. The following fully-developed proposal document titled “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science Community Partnerships in LAC” was submitted by Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), which is a Regional Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.

19. This is the fifth submission of the fully developed project proposal, using the one-step submission process.

20. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-seventh Board meeting. The secretariat carried out review of the project proposal, assigned it the Project ID number AF00000506, and completed a review sheet.

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

22. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25/15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted or with track change.



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
"AGROCLIMATIC INNOVATION ACCELERATOR FOR ADAPTATION THROUGH SCIENCE-
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN LAC"

Project Title **Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in LAC**

Project ID **AF00000506**

Category **MIE aggregator project for innovation**

Type **MIE aggregator project for innovation**

Stage **Fully-developed project**

Country **Global**

Implementing Entity **CAFVE**

Financing Requested **USD 8,000,000.00**

Reviewer

Co-reviewer(s)

IE Contact Person

Angelica Pino, Ignacio Lorenzo, Miguel Guzman, Oscar Guevara

Secretariat's Overall Comment

The first technical raised some key areas requiring further clarification and strengthening – such as relationship between Components, Outputs, and Activities, evaluation criteria, Results Framework, budget, and disbursement table. Additional attention is required to clarify the grant amount, scaling pathways, and the role of implementing partner, as detailed in the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) outlined below.

The second technical raised pending issues requiring clarification or corrective action such as compliance with the Gender Policy and ESP, M&E budget, cost-effectiveness, innovation screening and alignment with the revised, as detailed in the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) outlined below.

The third technical review identified a limited number of outstanding issues requiring clarification or corrective action, principally concerning the allocation and justification of M&E, Implementing Entity and execution costs; potential overlap among audit, reporting, supervision and component-funded functions; consistency across financial tables; and revision of the implementation and disbursement timeline, as detailed in the CRs and CARs outlined below.

The fourth technical review identifies a couple of outstanding issues requiring corrective action. The technical summary in the FIF online system should be revised for consistency with Table 2 of the proposal: Components 1 and 2 are presented in reverse order; the programme objective should replace the “project/programme” placeholder; and USD 6,560,460 should be identified as the component/activity cost rather than the total project/programme cost. The total project/programme cost, including USD 712,270 in execution costs, is USD 7,272,730. Please see the executing entity CAR in the review sheet.

The final technical review finds the pending issues to be resolved.

Country Eligibility

Does the proposal include a mechanism that will ensure that the participating countries are party to the Paris Agreement and/or the Kyoto Protocol?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: 5 Feb 2026

Response: Yes

Secretariat: The proposal includes a Stage 1 pass/fail eligibility screening through which the PMU verifies the applicant's country eligibility and compliance with Adaptation Fund policies. Only proposals from eligible CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean may proceed to technical evaluation, thereby ensuring that participating countries meet the Fund's requirement of being developing-country Parties to the Paris Agreement and/or the Kyoto Protocol.

Does the proposal describe how the IE will involve the participation of developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change? Does it specify countries, a region, or two or more regions?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: CAF will support this AFCIA program and involve the participation of LAC developing countries by connecting to its LAC member countries and thereby utilizing its regional framework. (5 Feb 2026)

Response: Yes

Secretariat: The proposal specifies a multi-country regional programme covering CAF's 21 member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, rather than identifying individual participating countries in advance. Country participation will be determined through open and competitive regional calls for proposals, through which at least 20 Science–Community Partnership projects will be selected.

The programme targets agricultural systems and rural territories that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, including those exposed to droughts, floods, storms, heatwaves, water scarcity and declining agricultural productivity. It prioritizes benefits for small- and medium-scale producers, rural communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth. The selected proposals must demonstrate climate vulnerability, adaptation relevance and alignment with the national or subnational priorities of the country in which they will operate.

Project Eligibility

Does the proposal describe how it will source innovation small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?

Response:

Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

To address issues of climate change in the climate sensitive LAC agricultural sector (reduced agricultural/livestock production, water scarcity, loss of arable land, value chain disruption, food insecurity, unstable income and rural livelihoods) the proposal describes how the program will source and screen grants proposals that will aim to support technically feasible and relevant innovations in LAC agricultural sector in CAF member countries.

Component 1 will identify, strengthen, and accelerate partnerships between science and communities through open and competitive regional calls, followed by technical and strategic evaluations of the proposals, and the selection of projects to receive small grants of up to USD 250,000. Selected projects will receive differentiated support according to their technological readiness levels (TRL): incubation for early-stage initiatives (TRL 4) and acceleration for initiatives in advanced phases (TRL 5–8). In total the programme will support the incubation and acceleration of at least 20 innovative climate adaptation initiatives.

Component 2 will in parallel support community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environment and social aspects. To strengthen submitted proposals broad campaign to promote access and equity, capacity building sessions, launching webinars, consultations, awareness raising etc. will be conducted.

Component 3 embeds knowledge management to support dissemination, scaling and replication of innovative agricultural solutions including evidence generation and their strategic communication and use through sharing of lessons learned, policy briefs, decision maker dialogues as well as bridging to potential funders or other scaling opportunities.

CAR1: Please clarify the logical relationship between Components, Outputs, and Activities, as they currently appear to be in a one-to-one ratio (e.g., Components 1 and 2 are each linked to only one Output and one Activity). Furthermore, please provide a more granular breakdown of the Activities under each Output.

CR1: The proposal indicates that selected projects will receive small grants of up to USD 250,000 and enter either an incubation or acceleration phase depending on their technical maturity. Please clarify whether the grant amount differs between these two categories, or if the maximum amount applies equally to all selected projects.

While the proposal explains that small grant proposals will be sourced through public calls and screened through a two-stage evaluation process, it does not yet define how the programme will determine that a proposal will deliver “concrete adaptation actions” (as distinct from enabling activities, research-only outputs, or general innovation support). The current description references climate justification and resilience benefits but does not specify minimum requirements or pass/fail decision rules that ensure selected projects demonstrably reduce climate vulnerability or strengthen adaptive capacity through on-the-ground actions.

CR2: Please define what the programme will consider “concrete adaptation actions” for purposes of screening and selection, and explain the minimum criteria that proposals must meet to demonstrate a clear climate risk rationale, a credible adaptation pathway, identifiable beneficiaries, and measurable adaptation results at pilot

level.

The proposal states that screening criteria and weighting will be specified in the call guidelines, but the concept does not yet provide an indicative evaluation matrix or explain how adaptation relevance will be weighted relative to other considerations such as novelty, technological readiness, scalability, or feasibility. Without this information, it is difficult to confirm that the screening system will consistently prioritize proposals with high adaptation value and ensure that innovations selected are those most likely to deliver climate resilience outcomes.

CR3: Please provide an indicative evaluation matrix showing how proposals will be assessed, including how adaptation relevance and climate resilience outcomes will be prioritized within the scoring framework. Please also clarify whether any minimum threshold score or disqualifying criteria will apply for climate justification and contribution to adaptation outcomes.

The proposal describes a regional call process and indicates that NDAs and other institutions may be invited to knowledge exchange and dissemination activities. However, it remains unclear how participating countries' national adaptation priorities will be reflected during the sourcing and screening stages, and whether (and how) relevant national authorities will be engaged in the call dissemination, validation of priority themes, or review of selected proposals. This is important to demonstrate that the programme will support adaptation actions that are aligned with country needs and climate priorities.

CR4: Please clarify how national priorities will inform the design of the call and screening criteria (for example through alignment with NAPs, NDC adaptation priorities, sectoral strategies, or other national frameworks). Please also describe how participating countries and/or their designated authorities will be engaged during sourcing and screening (for example, through notification, consultation on priority themes, or structured coordination mechanisms), while maintaining the independence of the technical evaluation process.

CR5: Please explain how the programme will apply proportionality in screening and documentation requirements at the application stage (for example, what is required upfront versus what can be strengthened during incubation). Please also describe what practical support will be provided to enable equitable participation (such as templates, coaching, helpdesk services, language and accessibility support, and targeted outreach), while ensuring continued compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response:

Not Cleared

Secretariat: General comment: Please ensure the sections in each part of the template are not changes "E.g. II A, III B etc). As the proposal will be likely approved in Oct 2026, ensure the timelines are revised.

CAR1: Partially cleared (pages 15–16, 17–20, Annex 1 Budget details for components 1 and 2)

The revised proposal presents a substantially improved and coherent articulation of the relationship between components, outputs, and activities. The previous concern regarding a one-to-one linkage has been addressed, with Component 1 now linked to multiple outputs and a more detailed breakdown of activities provided in the narrative and Theory of Change. The alignment between the components table, the Theory of Change (Figure 3), and the operational workflow (Figure 4) is clear and logically consistent.

The proposal also provides an improved level of detail on budget allocations, including a clearer distinction between grant financing under Component 1 and technical assistance and capacity strengthening under Component 2, which allows for a better understanding of the programme's overall financial structure.

However, some aspects of budget traceability could be further strengthened. In particular, while the proposal presents the overall allocation for grants (USD 5,016,000) and technical assistance, it does not explicitly articulate how these resources are distributed across individual subprojects, nor how support may vary between incubation and acceleration stages. As a result, the linkage between grant financing and associated technical assistance at the project level remains implicit rather than clearly defined.

CR1: Cleared (pages 4, 23–25)

The revised proposal clarifies that small grants of up to USD 250,000 apply across all selected projects, regardless of whether they enter the incubation or acceleration phase, with differentiation provided through the type of technical support rather than funding ceilings.

In addition, the proposal now defines minimum requirements to ensure that selected projects deliver concrete adaptation actions. Through the Stage 1 screening criteria, proposals are required to demonstrate a clear climate risk context, implementation under real field conditions, identifiable direct beneficiaries, and measurable contributions to reducing climate vulnerability or strengthening adaptive capacity. This adequately addresses the concern regarding the distinction between adaptation actions and enabling or research-only activities.

CR2: Cleared (pages 23–25)

The proposal now provides a clear definition of “concrete adaptation actions” through the introduction of Stage 1 eligibility criteria, which establish minimum requirements for screening. These include the identification of a context-specific climate risk, implementation of adaptation solutions under real conditions, identification of direct beneficiaries, and demonstration of measurable contributions to reducing climate vulnerability or strengthening adaptive capacity.

The inclusion of these criteria, together with the structured two-stage screening process, adequately clarifies how proposals will be assessed for adaptation relevance and ensures that selected projects go beyond enabling or research-only activities.

CR3: Cleared (pages 23–24)

The revised proposal now includes an indicative evaluation matrix (Table 5), which clearly outlines how proposals will be assessed across a 100-point scoring framework. The matrix explicitly assigns a significant weighting to adaptation value, ensuring that climate relevance and contribution to resilience outcomes are prioritized relative to other criteria such as innovation, feasibility, and scalability.

In addition, the proposal introduces minimum thresholds, including a specific minimum score for adaptation value and an overall minimum score required for project selection. This provides assurance that proposals must meet a defined standard of climate justification and adaptation impact in order to be considered.

Overall, the inclusion of the evaluation matrix and associated thresholds adequately addresses the concern and demonstrates that the screening system is designed to prioritize proposals with strong adaptation relevance and potential for delivering concrete climate resilience outcomes.

CR4: Cleared (pages 24–25, 38)

The revised proposal clarifies how national and subnational priorities will inform the sourcing and screening of proposals, including through requirements for alignment with relevant frameworks such as NAPs, NDC adaptation priorities, and sectoral strategies. This alignment is incorporated into the screening criteria, ensuring that selected projects respond to country-specific climate adaptation needs.

The proposal also explains that, while national authorities will be engaged through call dissemination and knowledge exchange activities, they will not directly participate in the scoring of proposals in order to preserve the independence of the technical evaluation process. This provides an appropriate balance between national

alignment and objective selection.

CR5: Cleared (pages 20, 33–35, 60)

The revised proposal clearly explains how the principle of proportionality will be applied in the screening and documentation requirements. Initial application requirements are streamlined to ensure accessibility, while more detailed environmental, social, and technical elements are progressively strengthened during the incubation phase.

The proposal also outlines a range of practical support mechanisms to enable equitable participation, including webinars, technical assistance, capacity-building activities, and inclusive outreach measures such as translation services and targeted support for vulnerable groups. These measures are complemented by a structured approach to ensuring continued compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy throughout the project cycle.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR1: Cleared (pp. 15–20 and 27–28; Annex I)

The revised proposal now clearly explains the relationship between the programme components, outputs and activities. Component 1 supports the formulation, selection and financing of the innovation projects; Component 2 provides centralized and differentiated technical assistance to the selected projects; and Component 3 captures evidence and supports dissemination, replication and scaling. The results chain and the relationship between these components are sufficiently explained in the narrative and Theory of Change. Budget traceability has also been adequately clarified for the purpose of CAR1. Output 1.2 comprises:

- USD 16,000 for Activity 1.2.1, covering the external evaluation and selection process; and
- USD 5,000,000 for Activity 1.2.2, covering at least 20 innovation grants of up to USD 250,000 each.

Individual grant budgets will be determined according to each project's workplan, TRL, scope, expected results and approved Procurement Plan, rather than through fixed allocations for incubation and acceleration.

Component 2 technical assistance is clearly presented as a separate centralized programme-level resource, tailored to project maturity and provided without reducing individual grant allocations

Does the programme contribute meaningfully to the Expected Results under the Innovation Pillar: i. New innovations and risk-taking encouraged and accelerated ii. Successful innovations replicated and scaled up iii. Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation. iv. Evidence base generated and shared.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes. (Section F, p. 24-26)

(i) New innovations and risk-taking encouraged and accelerated: The Program promotes and accelerates the development of climate innovations by funding, coordinating, and supporting collaborative processes among research institutions, technical assistance providers, and community-based producer organizations, enabling solutions at early stages of technological maturity (TRL 4) to advance toward testing and development phases through the iterative test–learn–develop cycle.

(ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up: The Program promotes the replication and scaling of successful innovations through Component 3, which focuses on the systematization, documentation, and dissemination of lessons learned, as well as the active promotion of scaling through policy briefs, dialogue tables

with decision-makers, and the strategic identification and connection of successful cases with potential funders, public programs, or new calls for proposals.

(iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation: The Program significantly strengthens access and capacities for the design and implementation of innovations through Component 2, which offers structured training, technical support, and skills development for community and institutional actors—not only on innovation processes and discussions of the progress of the different Partnerships, but also by strengthening capacities on cross-cutting issues such as environmental, social, and gender aspects, cost-effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation of innovative solutions.

(iv) Evidence base generated and shared: Through Component 3, the Program generates and shares a robust evidence base on the processes, outcomes, and lessons learned from the supported innovations. This includes systematizing the innovation cycle, monitoring the performance of solutions under real-world conditions, producing studies and evidence syntheses, and strategically disseminating them through publications, knowledge platforms, policy briefs, and multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces to ensure that the evidence reaches diverse audiences.

[5 Feb 2026]

Does the proposal describe how it will screen innovation small grant proposals for their potential to provide economic, social, and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

(Section H)

While the proposal describes the types of economic, social, gender, and environmental benefits expected from supported innovations, it does not clearly explain how these benefits will be assessed during the screening and selection process. The evaluation process references risk analysis and safeguards compliance, but the proposal does not yet clarify the criteria, thresholds, or indicative weighting that will be applied to ensure that proposals demonstrating strong inclusive and environmental outcomes are prioritized during selection.

CR6: Please clarify how the screening process will assess and prioritize economic, social, gender, and environmental benefits, including an indicative description of the evaluation categories or scoring approach. Please also explain whether minimum requirements or thresholds will apply to ensure that selected innovations demonstrate meaningful benefits for vulnerable communities.

The proposal explains how the selection process ensures that innovations address the needs of vulnerable communities through mandatory gender, social inclusion, and environmental risk management plans aligned with Adaptation Fund policies.

CAR2: The proposal states that all evaluation criteria and weighing will be specified in the call guidelines (p.26).

Since the specific grantees and activities are unknown at the proposal stage, these are categorized as Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs). Consequently, the selection process itself becomes the critical mechanism for not only ensuring compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP), but also for effectively sourcing, identifying, and scaling up high-potential innovations.. Therefore, it is essential to establish a robust and transparent framework for their selection and subsequent management.

Please provide a draft outline of these criteria and their respective scoring weights to ensure a transparent understanding of the selection process.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR6: Cleared (main text pages 23–25; Annex V pages 2–3; Annex II ESMS; Annex III Gender Assessment)

The revised proposal clarifies in the main text (pages 23–25) that economic, social, gender, and environmental considerations form part of the screening and selection process, including through the structured two-stage evaluation approach and alignment with the programme’s safeguards and inclusion objectives. This is further operationalized in Annex V (pages 2–3), which provides a detailed evaluation matrix including a dedicated scoring category for economic, social, environmental, and gender benefits (10 points), as well as their integration across core criteria such as adaptation value, beneficiary inclusion, and measurable results. The matrix also establishes minimum thresholds for both overall score and adaptation value, ensuring that selected proposals demonstrate meaningful contributions to climate resilience and benefits for vulnerable communities. These elements are reinforced by the Environmental and Social Management System (Annex II), which sets out requirements for safeguards screening, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and compliance with the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy, as well as the Gender Assessment (Annex III), which provides the analytical basis for addressing gender inequalities and informs the development of gender-responsive project requirements. Together, the main proposal and annexes provide a coherent and sufficiently detailed framework for assessing and prioritizing economic, social, gender, and environmental benefits during the selection process.

CAR2: Cleared (main text pages 23–25; Annex V pages 1–3; Annex II ESMS)

The revised proposal clarifies in the main text (pages 23–25) that a structured two-stage screening and evaluation process will be applied for the selection of subprojects, including eligibility screening and technical scoring aligned with Adaptation Fund requirements.

This framework is further detailed in Annex V (pages 1–3), which provides a comprehensive screening and evaluation system. Stage 1 establishes pass/fail eligibility criteria, including climate risk relevance, adaptation objective, concrete adaptation actions, beneficiary identification, and environmental and social screening, including the application of an exclusion list and risk categorization approach. Stage 2 introduces a 100-point scoring matrix with clearly defined evaluation categories and weights, including a strong emphasis on adaptation value and explicit minimum thresholds.

In addition, Annex II (ESMS) complements this framework by defining the environmental and social risk management approach, including screening procedures, risk categorization, and mitigation requirements consistent with the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy. While the screening framework does not explicitly reference each of the 15 ESP principles individually, the ESMS provides the necessary structure to ensure that subprojects are assessed and managed in line with these requirements throughout the project cycle.

[5 May 2026]

Does the project engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, but further clarification is needed.
(Section H, p. 27-28)

The program will in various ways pay particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable communities and traditionally excluded groups including for instance:

- Applying a structured and transparent selection process to ensure that proposed innovations demonstrate strong potential to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits, particularly for communities

vulnerable to climate change.

- A participatory design of solutions aimed at ensuring that women, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups participate from the identification stage through project implementation, promoting their leadership and decision-making.
- Providing technical training, institutional support, and practical knowledge generation, contributing to the empowerment of communities and local change agents.

CR7: Please clarify the specific scoring weights assigned to social benefits, participatory design, and technical training within the screening criteria, as the proposal indicates these will be detailed in future call guidelines (see CAR2). Additionally, please explain the operational mechanisms that will ensure the progression of TRL is systematically driven by beneficiary feedback and social adoption assessments throughout the incubation and acceleration phases.

CR8: While the overall approach is strong, please clarify:

- Whether any minimum targeting requirements or indicators will ensure that funded projects consistently reach vulnerable populations.
- How benefit distribution and empowerment outcomes will be monitored and verified at portfolio level, beyond individual project narratives. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR7: Partially Cleared (main text pages 23–25; Annex V pages 2–4; Component 2 pages 17–20)

The revised proposal now provides a clear indication of how social, economic, environmental, and gender-related considerations are incorporated into the screening process through the evaluation matrix. Specific scoring weights are assigned to relevant criteria, including economic, social, environmental, and gender benefits (10 points), beneficiary relevance and inclusion (5 points), and capacity-building elements, which collectively ensure that inclusive outcomes are considered in project selection.

However, further clarification is needed regarding the operational mechanisms that link the progression of innovation stages (incubation to acceleration) with beneficiary feedback and social adoption.

While the proposal emphasizes participatory design and co-creation, it does not yet clearly explain how feedback from beneficiaries and early-stage results will be used to inform decision-making throughout the innovation cycle. In particular, further clarification would be useful on how such feedback will inform the progression, adaptation, or potential discontinuation of projects between incubation and acceleration stages.

CR8: Partially Cleared (main text pages 20, 24–25; Annex V pages 1–3; Annex III Gender Assessment)

The revised proposal demonstrates a strong focus on engaging and benefiting vulnerable communities, including through mandatory requirements for identifying direct beneficiaries and incorporating considerations for women, youth, and indigenous populations in the screening process. The inclusion of a Gender Assessment and the development of a Gender Action Plan provide a solid analytical and strategic foundation for addressing inequalities.

In addition, the screening framework requires applicants to define quantitative indicators, including beneficiary-related metrics, which strengthens the ability to track results at the project level.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding (i) whether any minimum targeting requirements or thresholds will be applied to ensure consistent reach to vulnerable populations across the portfolio, and (ii) how benefit distribution and empowerment outcomes will be aggregated, monitored, and verified at the portfolio level beyond individual project reporting.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR7: Cleared (pp. 28–32 and 65–68). The revised proposal establishes an operational mechanism linking beneficiary feedback and social adoption to decisions throughout the innovation cycle. Supported projects will conduct user testing, participatory validation and adoption assessments, while the PMU will verify local relevance through progress reports, field visits, community interviews and participatory reviews. Evidence of usability, community acceptance and local relevance will inform three defined pathways: progression to acceleration, adaptation or adjustment of the innovation, or discontinuation and suspension of support where persistent adoption barriers or lack of social relevance are identified. The mechanism and its application will be documented through project reporting and the programme's M&E system.

CR8: Cleared (pp. 24–25 and 65–68; Annex IV, pp. 1–4 and 7–15; Annex V, pp. 1–5).

The revised package now establishes minimum requirements to ensure that funded projects reach vulnerable populations. Each Science–Community Partnership must identify vulnerable beneficiary groups, demonstrate direct engagement with at least one priority or climate-vulnerable group, establish context-specific quantitative inclusion targets, and report sex-, age- and ethnicity-disaggregated beneficiary data. Annex IV also sets portfolio-level targets for projects and financing focused on women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

The arrangements for monitoring and verifying benefit distribution and empowerment outcomes have also been clarified. Project-level data will be collected through baselines, periodic reports, beneficiary surveys, community interviews, field visits and participatory reviews. The PMU Gender Specialist and M&E team will consolidate and analyse the results through the FONTAGRO platform, including women's leadership, decision-making roles, technical participation, access to innovation resources, women-led partnerships and reported changes in agency and influence. Consolidated results will be reflected in progress reports, PPRs, the mid-term and final evaluations, and knowledge products.

Does the project advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Some clarification needed.

(A: p. 7-8, H: p. 27-28, Annex IV Gender Action Plan (GAP), Annex III Gender Assessment).

The proposal describes how the program will advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls such as.

- The proposal has undertaken a gender assessment and analysis.
- Gender discrepancies and inequalities have been considered in program design.
- In the project design process, all proponents will be required to submit: (i) a simple gender and social inclusion plan.
- By providing entrepreneurial opportunities for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, the programme suggests contributing to more equitable and socially inclusive economic growth, strengthening the leadership of these groups in local and national economies.
- The GAP describes how the program mainstreams gender disaggregated targets across the project's activities.

A reference of planned gender mainstreaming into the project (based on the Gender Action Plan) does not have an activity-based reference in the proposal's results framework.

CR9: Please, make a numbered activity-based reference to gender mainstreaming in the proposal's results framework.

CR10: Please clarify how the project will monitor outcome-level results related to gender equality and empowerment, including indicators that capture changes in women's leadership, access to innovation financing, technical roles, or participation in decision-making spaces across supported partnerships:

- Several targets emphasize participation numbers rather than changes in agency, decision-making power, or economic outcomes.
- The GAP does not yet clearly describe how gender results will be aggregated and reported at programme level (beyond activity indicators).
- The connection between gender actions and measurable climate adaptation outcomes could be more explicit.

CR11: Please clarify the programme-level monitoring and reporting approach for gender results, including how data from Science–Community Partnerships will be consolidated, analyzed, and reflected in progress reports, learning outputs, and knowledge products.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR9: Partially Cleared (pages 7–8, 27–28; Annex IV GAP; results framework)

The proposal demonstrates a strong commitment to gender equality, supported by a Gender Assessment and a comprehensive Gender Action Plan that outlines key actions and targets. Gender considerations are well integrated in the overall programme design.

However, the linkage between the Gender Action Plan and the proposal's results framework could be further strengthened. While the GAP outlines a range of gender-responsive actions, these are not consistently reflected through explicit, activity- or indicator-level references in the results framework.

For example, although the GAP emphasizes women's leadership and participation in decision-making within Science–Community Partnerships, the results framework does not include indicators capturing women's roles in leadership or decision-making positions. Similarly, while the programme aims to enhance women's access to innovation financing and entrepreneurial opportunities, there are no specific indicators tracking the proportion of grants awarded to women-led or women-inclusive initiatives.

In addition, capacity-building actions targeting women are not fully reflected through indicators capturing participation in technical roles or the depth of engagement beyond general beneficiary counts. Finally, outcome-level dimensions of empowerment, such as changes in agency, access to resources, or economic benefits are not clearly measured, and the linkage between gender-responsive actions and climate adaptation outcomes could be more explicitly articulated.

Providing clearer alignment between GAP actions and specific outputs and indicators in the results framework would enhance coherence and facilitate more robust monitoring of gender equality and empowerment results.

CR10: Partially Cleared (pages 27–28; Annex IV GAP; Annex V indicators)

The proposal includes gender-disaggregated indicators and demonstrates a clear intention to track participation of women and other vulnerable groups across programme activities. The Gender Action Plan further outlines actions to promote inclusion and participation.

However, outcome-level monitoring of gender equality and empowerment could be further strengthened. Current indicators focus primarily on participation, with limited emphasis on measuring changes in agency, leadership, access to resources, or decision-making roles within supported partnerships. In addition, the linkage between gender-related actions and measurable climate adaptation outcomes could be more explicitly articulated.

CR11: Partially Cleared (Annex V; Annex IV GAP; Section H)

The proposal outlines a results-based monitoring approach, including requirements for project-level indicators and a role for the Programme Management Unit in supporting monitoring and reporting. This provides a foundation for tracking gender-related results.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding the programme-level aggregation and reporting of gender outcomes. In particular, the proposal does not yet clearly describe how data from individual Science - Community Partnerships will be consolidated, analyzed, and reflected across programme-level reporting, learning outputs, and knowledge products.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR9: Cleared (pp. 72–80; Annex IV, pp. 5–16).

Some typographical and target-consistency issues remain within Annex IV, but they do not prevent clearance of CR9's specific request for numbered activity-based references. Please check.

The revised Results Framework now includes explicit, numbered references to the Gender Action Plan at the relevant objective, outcome and output levels. These references use the GAP-A numbering for activity-level measures and GAP-O numbering for gender outcome indicators.

The Results Framework now captures, among other areas:

- women's leadership and influence in partnership decision-making under GAP-O1;
- the number and percentage of women-led or co-led funded partnerships under GAP-A1.2.2.1;
- women's participation in technical, testing, validation and innovation roles under GAP-O2;
- women's access to innovation resources and scaling opportunities under GAP-O3; and
- adaptation benefits specifically demonstrated for women and vulnerable producers under GAP-O4.

Relevant activity-level GAP references are also included under the call, selection, capacity-building, knowledge-management and dissemination indicators. This provides the requested numbered linkage between gender mainstreaming actions in Annex IV and the programme's Results Framework.

CR10: Cleared (pp. 65–68 and 72–80; Annex IV, pp. 1–4 and 14–16).

The revised proposal and Gender Action Plan now include outcome-level indicators that go beyond participation counts and measure changes in women's leadership, agency, technical roles, access to innovation resources and decision-making power. These include the percentage of partnerships in which women hold formal leadership positions, the percentage of women reporting increased influence in project decisions and co-design processes, women's leadership of technical and innovation functions, improved confidence and technical capacity, improved access to innovation resources and scaling opportunities, and validated innovations demonstrating specific adaptation benefits for women and vulnerable producers.

Importantly, these indicators are not limited to Annex IV. They have been explicitly integrated into Table 13, the programme Results Framework, under GAP-O1 to GAP-O4, with corresponding baselines, targets, means of verification and monitoring responsibilities. This ensures that gender equality and empowerment outcomes form part of the programme's formal results-management and reporting framework and will be monitored through annual reporting, the mid-term review and final evaluation. The Results Framework also links these gender outcomes to adaptation results, including increased adaptive capacity, participation in the testing and validation of adaptation solutions, and improved access to resources and opportunities supporting resilience.

CR11: Cleared (pp. 32–34 and 65–69; Annex IV, pp. 2–4).

The revised proposal now provides a clear programme-level approach for consolidating, analysing and reporting gender results from the individual Science–Community Partnerships. Each funded partnership will collect standardized sex-, age- and, where relevant, ethnicity-disaggregated data, together with information on

women's leadership and decision-making roles, technical participation, access to innovation resources and opportunities, empowerment outcomes, and gender-responsive adaptation practices.

The PMU, including the Gender Specialist and M&E function, will consolidate and analyse these data through the customized FONTAGRO monitoring platform using common indicators, definitions, reporting templates and evidence requirements. The results will be reflected in semi-annual progress reports, annual Project Performance Reports, the mid-term evaluation, the final evaluation and Adaptation Fund reporting.

The proposal also explains how gender evidence will feed into programme learning and knowledge products. Project-level evidence and learning logs will be reviewed across countries, innovation types, beneficiary groups and implementation contexts, and synthesized into portfolio-level learning products, case studies, briefs, comparative analyses and dissemination materials under Component 3. Annex IV consistently reflects these aggregation and reporting arrangements.

This adequately addresses the request to explain how gender results will move beyond individual project reporting and be incorporated into programme-level monitoring, learning and knowledge management.

Is the project/programme cost-effective? In the case of regional project/ programmes, does the regional approach support cost effectiveness? Does the project engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

The proposal outlines a comprehensive approach to cost-efficiency by prioritizing concrete resilience results, requiring comparative cost-benefit analyses, and leveraging existing regional resources to reduce transaction costs.

CR12: Please clarify how these specific cost-efficiency metrics will be weighted within the screening criteria (see CAR2). Additionally, please explain the operational mechanisms through which the incubation and acceleration phases will assist grantees in validating these value propositions and utilizing existing CAF and FONTAGRO platforms to ensure scalability and reduced costs per beneficiary.

The narrative explains how the programme intends to select cost-effective innovations, but it does not yet provide a programme-level cost-effectiveness analysis, including expected cost ranges, unit cost assumptions, or how cost-effectiveness will be assessed consistently across diverse innovation types and countries.

CR13: Please provide a programme-level cost-effectiveness framework, including (i) the parameters and assumptions that will be used to assess cost-effectiveness across small grants (e.g., unit costs per beneficiary, cost per outcome proxy, cost per hectare/producer reached where relevant), (ii) minimum evidence expectations at entry (TRL4–5) and for exit (TRL8), and (iii) how results will be synthesized across the portfolio. The proposal states that the regional approach will enable economies of scale and reduce transaction costs; however, the explanation remains general and would benefit from specific examples of costs avoided or reduced through pooled platforms, shared TA, joint evaluation processes, and shared KM outputs.

CR14: Please clarify, with concrete examples, which programme functions will be centralized regionally (e.g., screening, evaluator training, innovation clinics, digital platforms, knowledge products) and describe how this reduces unit costs compared to a country-by-country approach.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR12: Partially Cleared (Annex V pages 2–3; main text pages 23–25; Component 2 pages 17–20).

The revised proposal includes cost-effectiveness as a defined evaluation criterion within the scoring matrix (5 points), providing a clearer basis for assessing value for money during project selection. The evaluation framework also considers sustainability and scalability as complementary criteria, which together contribute to assessing the longer-term viability of supported innovations.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding how cost-effectiveness will be assessed in practice, including any indicative benchmarks or guidance for evaluators. In addition, while sustainability and cost-effectiveness are both considered, the proposal does not yet clearly articulate how these dimensions will be assessed in an integrated manner (e.g., value for money over time, cost per sustained adaptation outcome, or cost of scaling). Clarifying how cost-effectiveness assessments will account for longer-term sustainability and scalability would further strengthen the evaluation framework.

CR13: Not Cleared (main text; Annex V)

While the proposal incorporates cost-effectiveness as a project-level evaluation criterion, it does not yet provide a programme-level framework for assessing cost-effectiveness across the portfolio. In particular, the proposal does not define common parameters or assumptions that would allow for consistent comparison across supported innovations, such as indicative unit costs per beneficiary, per hectare, or per outcome proxy, where relevant.

In addition, the proposal does not clarify how cost-effectiveness expectations will evolve across the innovation cycle (e.g., at entry stages versus more mature stages), nor how results will be synthesized and analyzed at the programme level to inform learning and scaling.

Providing a high-level programme-level framework, including indicative parameters and an approach to aggregating results across projects, would strengthen the consistency and comparability of cost-effectiveness assessments.

CR14: Partially Cleared (main text pages 20–22)

The proposal provides a clear conceptual rationale for the regional approach, highlighting its potential to reduce transaction costs and achieve economies of scale through shared processes and platforms.

However, the explanation would benefit from additional specificity. In particular, it would be useful to provide concrete examples of programme functions that will be centralized at the regional level (e.g., screening processes, evaluator pools, technical assistance delivery, digital platforms, or knowledge products), and how these arrangements are expected to reduce unit costs compared to a country-by-country approach.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR12: Cleared (pp. 38–41 and 65–69; Annex V, pp. 4–10).

The revised proposal now explains how cost-effectiveness will be assessed in practice. The Stage 2 evaluation matrix assigns 5 points to project cost-effectiveness and a further 5 points to sustainability, scalability and replication potential. Applicants must provide proportionate unit-cost information, including cost per direct beneficiary, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy, together with expected reach and assumptions on how costs may decline or benefits increase through learning and scaling.

The proposal also provides guidance for evaluators. Comparable evidence from IICA and FONTAGRO's completed portfolios will be used as indicative plausibility anchors rather than rigid thresholds, recognizing differences among innovation types, contexts and maturity levels. Cost-effectiveness and sustainability will be assessed together as value for money over time, including whether institutional anchoring, partnerships, replication or integration into existing programmes can reduce the cost per sustained adaptation outcome beyond the grant period.

The operational arrangements across the innovation cycle are also clarified. At entry and incubation, the PMU will help projects refine unit-cost assumptions and appropriate metrics. During acceleration and piloting,

projects will test these assumptions using observed delivery costs, adoption patterns, operational constraints and potential economies of scale. At completion, projects will compare estimated and actual costs and assess whether their sustainability and scaling pathway remains viable. The FONTAGRO platform will be used to aggregate and analyse this evidence, while the regional networks of CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO will support learning, replication and links to scaling opportunities.

CR13: Cleared (pp. 40–41 and 65–68; Annex V, pp. 4–10).

The revised proposal now provides a programme-level cost-effectiveness framework based on common parameters and standardized definitions. Depending on the type of innovation, all funded projects will report cost per direct beneficiary, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy. Common cost categories, calculation assumptions and reporting templates will be used to support comparison across projects, countries, agroecological contexts and innovation types. The proposal also establishes differentiated evidence expectations across the innovation cycle. At entry and incubation, projects will provide preliminary unit-cost estimates, expected reach, adoption assumptions and a value-for-money rationale. During acceleration and piloting, these assumptions will be tested using observed delivery costs, adoption patterns, operational constraints and potential economies of scale. At completion, projects will compare estimated and actual costs, distinguish initial development costs from recurrent operation and maintenance costs, and assess whether the innovation has a viable cost-effectiveness and sustainability pathway beyond the grant period. Project-level evidence will be aggregated by the PMU through harmonized indicators and the FONTAGRO platform and dashboard. The portfolio analysis will identify efficiency ranges, scale effects and emerging benchmarks and will inform the mid-term and final assessments, knowledge products and decisions concerning replication and scaling. This adequately addresses the requested common parameters, stage-specific expectations and portfolio-level synthesis.

CR14: Cleared (pp. 41–42).

The revised proposal now identifies the specific functions that will be centralized at the regional level, including:

- design and dissemination of a single regional call;
- recruitment and training of a shared pool of independent evaluators;
- use of one eligibility framework, scoring matrix and digital evaluation system;
- centralized technical assistance for applicants and selected projects;
- regional innovation, peer-learning and marketplace activities;
- harmonized monitoring, reporting and cost-effectiveness templates through the FONTAGRO platform; and
- shared knowledge products, policy briefs, synthesis reports, scaling profiles and an online catalogue.

The proposal explains that centralizing these fixed-cost functions across at least 20 projects and multiple countries avoids the repeated recruitment, training, technical-assistance materials, monitoring systems and knowledge products that would otherwise be required under separate country-level programmes. It is therefore expected to reduce the average programme-support cost per project, shorten processing cycles and allow innovations and lessons to be replicated across countries at lower marginal cost. This provides the concrete examples and comparative regional cost rationale requested.

Does the proposal describe how it will screen innovation small grant proposals for consistency with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, adaptation planning processes, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action, national adaptation plans (NAPs), nationally determined contributions (NDCs), adaptation communications, and other voluntary adaptation reports, where they exist, as well as with the UNFCCC technology framework, and other relevant instruments?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, but further clarification is needed.

(J: p. 29-30)

The proposal outlines how it ensures consistency with national and sub-national strategies and plans.

Alignment with national strategies and priorities will be a mandatory criterion in the evaluation and selection of projects contribution to

- NAPs, NDCs, TNAs/TAPs, SDGs, the Paris Agreement and other relevant national strategies including:
- the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UNFCCC,
- the conceptual framework of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and incorporates principles from the United Nations System Strategy on Water and Sanitation (2024)
- The programme is aligned not only at the regional level but also at the national level with the policies of the 21 CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CR15: Please clarify how these requirements will be specifically considered and weighed within the draft screening criteria. (see CAR2).

The proposal references alignment with national strategies across CAF member countries, but it is not clear how the programme will handle countries with varying degrees of completeness of NAPs/TNAs/TAPs or where subnational plans are more relevant than national instruments.

CR16: Please clarify how alignment will be assessed in contexts where relevant national/subnational instruments are absent, outdated, or not publicly available, and what alternative evidence applicants may use. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR15: Cleared (main text pages 23–25; Annex V pages 1–3)

The revised proposal clearly establishes alignment with national and subnational strategies as a mandatory requirement within the screening process, with proposals failing to demonstrate such alignment not advancing to the evaluation stage. In addition, alignment is further assessed within the scoring matrix, with an explicit weighting that ensures the quality of alignment is considered during selection.

CR16: Partially Cleared (main text pages 29–30; Annex V)

The proposal appropriately establishes alignment with national and subnational strategies as a key requirement for project selection and incorporates this into the screening and evaluation framework.

Recognizing that not all countries have comprehensive or up-to-date national instruments such as NAPs, TNAs, or TAPs, further clarification would be beneficial on how the programme will apply this requirement in a flexible and context-appropriate manner. In particular, it would be useful to indicate how applicants may demonstrate alignment using available and relevant evidence (e.g., sectoral strategies, subnational plans, or other policy frameworks), without creating unnecessary barriers to participation.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR16: Cleared (pp. 26 and 41–43; Annex V, pp. 2–5).

A minor internal inconsistency should be corrected: Section J refers to this flexibility being applied during the

technical evaluation phase, whereas the operational workflow and Annex V place the initial alignment assessment under Stage 1 screening. This does not prevent clearance of CR16, but the sequencing should be harmonized.

The revised proposal now explains how alignment will be assessed where NAPs, TNAs, TAPs or other relevant national instruments are absent, outdated, under preparation or not publicly available. In such cases, applicants may use alternative credible and officially recognized evidence, including sectoral strategies, municipal or subnational development or climate plans, UNFCCC communications, disaster-risk-reduction frameworks, endorsed government programmes and other relevant policy frameworks.

Applicants must identify the applicable instruments in the application form and provide links or supporting documentation. Proposals that cannot substantiate alignment through verifiable evidence will not pass the eligibility stage. The assessment will focus on the innovation's functional relevance to demonstrated territorial resilience priorities rather than requiring a particular type of national instrument. Annex V incorporates the same context-sensitive approach into the Stage 1 screening framework

Does the proposal describe how it will screen innovation small grant proposals for meeting the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Needs clarification (Section K: p. 30-31)

The proposal describes how it will screen for adherence to relevant national technical standards and the AF's Environmental and Social Policy.

- The initial call of proposals requires the applicants to consider and adhere to AF's environment, social and gender policies.
- Technical assistance to be provided to those who need help complying with AF standards.
- During the co-designing phase of proposals, the teams will be given support by various areas of expertise to demonstrate how proposed activities align with regulatory frameworks, technical standards, and established best practices for the sector in each country.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on their consideration of national and sectoral regulatory frameworks.
- If there is need for compliance the program will provide technical guidance

Among the relevant norms and regulations for the agricultural sector that proposals must consider include:

- Integrated soil and water management standards
- Regulations on the use and management of plant protection products
- Standards for sustainable agricultural production
- Animal health and welfare regulations
- Applicable environmental requirements

While the proposal notes that innovation projects (including subsequently identified subprojects) will be screened for compliance with relevant national technical standards and any required permits/licenses, it does not yet specify the roles, responsibilities, sequencing, and decision points for ensuring compliance before subproject approval and disbursement, and for monitoring compliance during implementation. CR17: Please clarify the operational workflow that will apply to each identified subproject, including:

- When screening occurs (e.g., concept screening → full subproject package → approval → disbursement → implementation monitoring);
- Who is responsible for review and sign-off at each step (PMU, technical experts/evaluators, national authorities where applicable);
- The documentation required at each step (e.g., standards checklist, permits/waivers, evidence of applications submitted/approved, any required ES instruments under the AF ESP); and
- The decision points for conditional approvals, including what must be completed as a condition of subproject approval and/or prior to first disbursement to the subproject. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR17: Partially Cleared (main text pages 30–31; Annex V; Annex II ESMS)

The proposal provides a solid framework for ensuring compliance with relevant national technical standards and the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, including through initial screening, application of an exclusion list, risk categorization, and the provision of technical assistance to supported projects. These elements are further supported by the ESMS and the structured evaluation framework.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding the overall operational workflow applied to subprojects. In particular, it would be useful to more clearly describe the sequencing of key steps from screening through approval, disbursement, and implementation monitoring, as well as the general roles of the entities involved in review and oversight.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR17: Partially Cleared (pp. 20–21, 42–44 and 63–65; Annex II, pp. 14–27; Annex V, pp. 1–6).

The revised proposal now provides a substantially clearer operational workflow. Table 4 identifies the sequence from proposal submission, Stage 1 screening and risk categorization through technical evaluation, safeguards preparation, final financing decision, agreement signature, first disbursement, implementation monitoring and subsequent disbursements. It also identifies the responsible actors, required documentation and principal decision points. Annex II and Annex V further clarify that the PMU is responsible for eligibility screening, E&S risk categorization and safeguards approval; the External Evaluation Panel is responsible for technical scoring and recommendations; IICA incorporates the requirements into agreements and authorizes execution or disbursement; and CAF retains overall oversight.

However, the workflow is not yet fully coherent across the proposal and annexes:

- Table 4 and Annex V assign Stage 1 eligibility screening to the PMU, while the proposal elsewhere states that the eligibility and alignment criteria will be applied by the independent External Evaluation Panel.
- Section K states that every proposal will present an ESMP at the call stage and that the Evaluation Panel will review the E&S screening and gender analysis. This conflicts with Table 4 and Annex II, which provide for an initial E&S screening at application, followed by PMU determination of the required instruments and preparation of the ESMP and GAP by selected projects before approval.
- Table 4 states that safeguards documentation must be approved before the grant agreement is signed, while Annex II allows conditional approval of projects with minor safeguards gaps, provided the outstanding actions are completed before first disbursement. The precise approval gate should be stated consistently.
- The role of national authorities should be made explicit where regulatory permits or licences are required, distinguishing their responsibility for issuing or confirming regulatory approvals from the independent technical scoring process.

Please harmonize the workflow across Table 4, Sections G, K and U, Annex II and Annex V, clearly confirming: (i) which actor applies Stage 1 criteria; (ii) what safeguards documentation is required at application, final approval

and first disbursement; (iii) whether conditional approval before safeguards clearance is permitted; and (iv) the role of national regulatory authorities where permits

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR17: Cleared (pp. 20, 25, 35–37, 42 and 62–63; Annex II, pp. 11–16 and 24).

The revised proposal and Annex II now provide a coherent operational workflow. They confirm that the PMU applies Stage 1 eligibility, adaptation and E&S screening and determines the E&S risk category, while the Independent External Evaluation Panel undertakes Stage 2 technical scoring and recommendations. The documents also clarify the safeguards requirements at application, prior to agreement signature and before first disbursement; permit conditional safeguards clearance only for minor outstanding actions; and confirm that no funds will be disbursed until all safeguards instruments and conditions have been fully approved or completed. The responsibility of the relevant national or sectoral authorities for issuing or confirming required permits and licences is also distinguished from the programme's screening and technical evaluation processes.

Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

While the program (as stated in Section L, p. 31) has been designed to ensure complementarity with other regional programs, avoiding duplication of efforts, it does not list other relevant projects that the programme could liaise and synergize with or as a minimum avoid duplicating efforts with. The proposal indicates that projects will be cross-checked against FONTAGRO databases and applicants will declare related funding; however, the proposal does not specify how duplication risk will be assessed and mitigated, especially where similar innovation ecosystems and hubs exist.

CR18: Under this section

- identify all relevant potentially overlapping projects and state anticipated complementarity and overlap with the planned programme, and lessons learned that have informed the programme's design etc.
- please clarify the process and criteria for assessing duplication and complementarity, including (i) what databases/sources will be checked, (ii) how related initiatives will be identified beyond self-declaration, and (iii) how the programme will address partial overlaps (e.g., complementary scope, different geography, different beneficiaries).

Perhaps, Table 1 from and narratives texts p. 10-11 could be re-used and worked with to meet the above request.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR18: Partially Cleared (main text pages 10–11, 31; Annex V)

The proposal demonstrates awareness of the need to avoid duplication and promote complementarity with existing initiatives, including through cross-checking against relevant databases and requiring applicants to

declare related funding. The inclusion of duplication and complementarity as an evaluation criterion in the screening framework further strengthens this approach.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding how duplication risks will be assessed and managed in practice.

In particular, it would be useful to (i) provide indicative examples of key regional or thematic initiatives with which the programme is expected to align or complement (which could build on the existing overview provided in Table 1), (ii) clarify the range of sources or databases that will be used to identify related initiatives beyond applicant self-declaration, and (iii) explain how cases of partial overlap will be assessed and addressed to ensure complementarity (e.g., differentiation by geography, beneficiary groups, or stage of innovation)

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR18: Cleared (pp. 43–46; Annex V, pp. 6 and 10–11).

The revised proposal now identifies relevant potentially overlapping initiatives and explains how the programme differs from and complements them. Examples include FONTAGRO and IDB-supported projects, CAF climate and agriculture programmes, CGIAR and national agricultural research initiatives, AgroHub Zamorano, bilateral innovation hubs and existing AFCIA programmes. The proposal also describes the lessons incorporated into programme design, particularly the need to strengthen the links between innovation, community adoption, technical assistance and pathways for scaling.

The proposal further establishes a multi-layered process for identifying duplication beyond applicant self-declaration. The PMU and Independent Evaluation Panel will cross-check proposals against:

- other proposals submitted under the same call;
- FONTAGRO's historical project database;
- CAF's climate and agriculture investment portfolio;
- the Adaptation Fund innovation project portfolio; and
- other relevant thematic or geographic information sources identified by CAF, IICA, FONTAGRO or the PMU.

Partial overlaps will be assessed according to geographic scope, beneficiary groups and the innovation's technological readiness level. Proposals may be adjusted to establish complementarity or formal linkages with existing initiatives, while substantial unresolved duplication may result in reformulation or rejection. These requirements are also reflected in Annex V's duplication and complementarity criterion and evaluator guidance.

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

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Needs clarification (Page. 22-24).

The programme has a learning and knowledge management system which is essential to reach the programmes objectives:

- It aims at supporting the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions.
- It incorporates feedback mechanisms to improve proposal quality, as well as conduct periodic evaluations to adaptively adjust the program's approach.
- During project implementation, PMU will provide continuous technical feedback to ensure that gender, youth, human rights, and social inclusion dimensions are integrated across all stages of the project lifecycle.
- It will conduct systematic monitoring using gender- and vulnerability-disaggregated indicators, ensuring the

measurement of equitable impact and the continuous improvement of participation processes.

- It will facilitate strategic communication and use through actions such as sharing lessons learned, preparing policy briefs, facilitating dialogue tables with decision-makers, and connecting successful cases with potential funders or other scaling opportunities.

While Component 3 outlines KM intentions and products, the proposal does not clearly describe how evidence quality will be ensured, how learning will be captured consistently across diverse innovations, and how responsibilities are allocated.

CR19: Please clarify (i) KM governance (roles of PMU, partners, grantees), (ii) minimum evidence standards per grant (what data must be collected), (iii) how the programme will validate findings (including cost-effectiveness/ROI analyses), and (iv) how lessons will be packaged for replication and scaling.

The proposal mentions monitoring the use/impact of KM products but does not specify indicators for uptake and influence (beyond production counts).

CR20: Please clarify the KM uptake indicators (e.g., number of downloads/views, citations in policy documents, adoption inquiries, replication attempts, stakeholder engagement metrics) and how these will be tracked.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR19: Partially Cleared (main text pages 21–22; Component 3; Annex V)

The proposal includes a dedicated component on knowledge management and dissemination, with a clear focus on generating and sharing lessons from supported innovations to promote replication and scaling.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding the operationalization of knowledge management activities. In particular, the proposal does not yet clearly define how knowledge products and dissemination approaches will be tailored to different target audiences (e.g., local communities, policymakers, investors, and regional or global platforms), which is important for ensuring uptake and scaling of innovations.

In addition, while knowledge generation is embedded at the project level, the proposal does not clearly describe how lessons from multiple projects will be systematically aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level learning and knowledge products. Clarifying how cross-learning will be facilitated across Science-Community Partnerships and how insights will be fed into broader dissemination and scaling efforts would further strengthen the knowledge management framework.

CR20: Partially Cleared (Component 3; Annex V; main text pages 21–22)

The proposal includes indicators related to knowledge management outputs, such as the number of knowledge products developed and dissemination activities conducted. This provides a basic framework for tracking the delivery of knowledge management activities.

However, the proposal does not include indicators that capture the uptake and use of these knowledge products. In particular, there are no indicators that reflect whether knowledge generated through the programme is being applied, informing decision-making, or supporting replication and scaling of innovations. In addition, the proposal does not clearly describe how such uptake will be tracked and reported.

Providing indicative uptake-oriented indicators and a high-level approach for monitoring their use would strengthen the assessment of the effectiveness of knowledge management efforts and their contribution to scaling and replication.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR19: Cleared (pp. 45–47 and 65–69).

The revised proposal now clarifies KM responsibilities, minimum evidence requirements, and how project-level findings will be validated, aggregated and translated into programme-level learning. It also explains how knowledge products will be tailored to communities, policymakers, investors and regional platforms, and how cross-project learning will support replication and scaling.

CR20: Cleared (pp. 47–48 and 79–80).

The revised proposal now includes uptake-oriented indicators covering publication downloads, digital-platform views, stakeholder feedback, and documented cases of replication, piloting, interest in replication, or use of programme evidence in policy, investment, public programmes and adaptation planning. These indicators are integrated into the Results Framework under Outcome 3 and will be tracked through the FONTAGRO digital monitoring system, periodically reviewed by the PMU and reported through programme and Adaptation Fund reporting.

Has the proposal described what consultative process will take place, and how will it involve all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes (Page. 33-34).

The consultative process planned for implementation will be inclusive, participatory, with a particular emphasis on the participation of vulnerable groups and the integration of gender considerations.

The co-design phase will require the active participation of communities which will ensure that the interventions are culturally and territorially appropriate, equitable, and effective

Starting from the third year, the Program will promote engagement with greater participation from external stakeholders through open and hybrid innovation sessions aimed at integrating additional actors from the agro-climatic ecosystem.

Further gender consultations and considerations will be undertaken at the very project formulation stage whereby proposals will be advised by a gender screening template.

The Program has been designed in consultation with internal teams from FONTAGRO and CAF, as well as relevant experts in various fields such as innovation, climate finance, and agriculture whereby valuable lessons learned from previous processes were captured.

The project's design was informed by a gender assessment and consultations (semi-structured interviews). Insights from consultations with key research development centers and producer organizations with extensive experience working in the agricultural sector and in innovation, strongly supported the Program concept. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: NEWCR31: Stakeholder consultations (pp. 47–48; Annex III, pp. 20–22).

The proposal identifies several programme-level consultations conducted during design and summarizes how feedback informed the programme, particularly regarding financing, technical assistance, inclusion and scaling. It also requires applicants and pre-selected partnerships to consult local stakeholders and communities during subproject development.

However, the separate statement that an AFCIA aggregator programme does not require consultation documentation is incorrect. Although the specific subprojects and locations are not yet known, the aggregator

approach does not waive the requirement to demonstrate meaningful programme-level consultation during design or to establish a framework for more detailed consultations once subprojects are identified.

Please:

Provide supporting documentation for the design-stage consultations (already mentioned in the proposal), including the dates, stakeholder groups and participants, consultation methods, key feedback received and how it informed the programme design; and

Provide a structured stakeholder consultation and engagement framework for the subprojects, specifying the timing, responsible actors, minimum consultation and documentation requirements, participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, gender-responsive and culturally appropriate methods, disclosure and feedback mechanisms, and application of FPIC where Indigenous Peoples may be affected or involved.

The one-page statement should be withdrawn or revised accordingly.

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: NEWCR31: Cleared (pp. 45–46; Annex II, pp. 25–27; Annex VI).

Annex VI provides supporting documentation for the programme-design consultations, including the consultation periods and methods, participating organizations and stakeholders, key issues raised, and how the feedback informed the programme design. Annex II now establishes a structured and proportionate consultation and engagement framework for subprojects, covering responsibilities, timing and minimum requirements, documentation and disclosure, engagement of vulnerable and marginalized groups, feedback and grievance mechanisms, and FPIC where Indigenous Peoples may be affected. The earlier statement suggesting that consultation documentation was not required for an AFCIA aggregator programme has also been withdrawn. The comment is therefore cleared.

Is the requested financing justified based on full cost of adaptation reasoning?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes (Page. 34-35)

The programme has been developed in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's principle of "full cost of adaptation,".

The proposal ensures that the proposed activities generate adaptation results autonomously and without reliance on external sources of financing. Particular attention has been given to avoiding duplication and maximizing complementarity with existing regional initiatives.

A justification has been provided highlighting the benefits that the proposed activities under the various components will deliver compared to a "business as usual" scenario.

[5 Feb 2026]

Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

CAR3: As the project results framework includes only one objective-level indicator, please ensure that Table 9 reflects a single objective-level indicator. Revise the upper section of the table accordingly, ensuring that the indicated grant amount matches the total project activity cost (USD 6,545,460). Finally, for consistency, please ensure that all Fund Outcomes associated with the Fund Outputs listed in the lower section of the table are also reflected in the upper section.

The proposal outlines screening requirements aligned with the Environmental and Social Policy, but it does not yet provide sufficient detail on how safeguards risks will be monitored and managed throughout implementation once projects are selected. In particular, the roles and responsibilities of the Programme Management Unit, the Science–Community Partnerships, and any technical support mechanisms for ongoing ESS oversight are not fully described.

CR21: Please clarify the process for ongoing monitoring, reporting, and management of environmental and social risks during implementation, including how compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy will be supervised, how risks will be escalated if identified, and what support mechanisms will be provided to small-grant beneficiaries to maintain compliance.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR3: Not Cleared (Table 9; results framework; revised SRF alignment)

In line with the revised Strategic Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund, please ensure that Table 9 is fully consistent in its structure and alignment.

As the project includes a single objective-level indicator, please revise the upper section of Table 9 to reflect only one objective-level indicator, consistent with the revised SRF approach.

In addition, please ensure that the Fund Outcome associated with the project—particularly Outcome 8 on innovation—is clearly reflected in the upper section of the table, and that all Fund Outputs listed in the lower section (e.g., Outputs 8.1 and 8.2) are appropriately linked to their corresponding Outcome.

Finally, please ensure that the grant amount presented in Table 9 corresponds to the total project activity cost, in line with Adaptation Fund cost presentation requirements.

Source (Pages 9-10): <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/update-to-the-adaptation-fund-strategic-results-framework-2/>

CR21: Partially Cleared (main text; Annex II ESMS; Annex V)

The proposal provides a solid foundation for environmental and social risk management, including screening procedures, risk categorization, and alignment with the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy. The inclusion of technical assistance to support compliance is appropriate, particularly given the small-grant and USP nature of the programme.

However, further clarification would be beneficial regarding how environmental and social risks will be monitored and managed throughout implementation.

In particular, it would be useful to more clearly describe (i) the approach for ongoing monitoring and reporting of safeguards risks, (ii) the general roles and responsibilities of the Programme Management Unit, Science–

Community Partnerships, and technical support providers in supervising compliance, and (iii) how risks will be escalated and addressed if identified during implementation.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR3: Cleared (pp. 80–82).

Table 14 now correctly reflects Outcomes 8 and 2 and links them to Outputs 8.1, 8.2 and 2.1. The total grant amount of USD 6,560,460 is also consistent with the current total project activity cost.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR12 (reopened): Alignment with the revised Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework guidance (Relevant to Table 14).

Apologies for this additional request. The revised Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework Guidance and updated templates were published after the preparation of the proposal, and the project team may therefore not have had access to the current versions. This request is intended only to ensure consistency with the Fund's latest reporting framework and does not require changes to the programme design or budget.

Please update Table 14 using the revised SRF Alignment Table Template and the exact outcome, output and indicator wording provided in the accompanying guidance. In particular:

The revised alignment table begins with project outcomes, followed by project outputs; the separate objective-level alignment section is no longer required.

Project outcomes should be mapped to the applicable Fund outcomes and outcome indicators, while project outputs should be mapped to the corresponding Fund outputs and output indicators.

Please use the updated numbering and terminology, including Indicators 8A/8B, 8.1A/8.1B and 8.2, and the revised wording for Outcome 2, Indicator 2, Output 2.1 and Indicator 2.1.

For Outcome 2, the project indicator should measure strengthened capacity at the institutional level, consistent with Fund Indicator 2. Knowledge products and dissemination activities should be presented at output level, while evidence of uptake, replication or scaling would be more appropriate at outcome level.

The grant amounts should continue to total USD 6,560,460 at both the outcome and output levels.

Links to revised guidance posted in July 2026 :

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/alignment-with-adaptation-fund-results-framework-template-and-guidance-dec-2025/> (templates)

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/strategic-results-framework-guidance-2026/>

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Has the sustainability of the programme outcomes been considered when designing the programme, including in the screening of the innovation small grants projects? Does the programme include pathways to scale up successful small grant projects?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, but further clarification is needed.

The proposal explains how sustainability is integrated through prioritized scaling plans, local capacity building, and knowledge sharing to ensure long-term impact and clear pathways for additional funding (Section Q).

Sustainability is described in general terms, but it is not clear what minimum sustainability provisions will be expected from each small grant (e.g., O&M plans, institutional anchoring, training plans, local financing linkages).

CR22: Please clarify the minimum sustainability requirements for funded projects, including expected provisions for technical maintenance, institutional ownership, and local capacity to continue activities beyond the grant period

CR23: The proposal states that the program will enable the mobilization of new investments from public, private, regional, and multilateral sources (para 176). Please clarify the specific strategies or operational plans—after (or/and during) the program—intended to facilitate this mobilization and ensure the financial scale-up of successful innovations.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR22: Partially Cleared

The proposal demonstrates a strong conceptual approach to sustainability, including capacity building, knowledge dissemination, and pathways for scaling and replication of successful innovations. These elements are well integrated across Components 2 and 3 and align with the objectives of the programme.

However, the proposal does not yet clearly define the minimum sustainability requirements expected from individual small grant projects. In particular, it is not specified what provisions subprojects will be required to include to ensure continuity beyond the grant period, such as technical maintenance, institutional ownership, or local capacity to sustain results.

Providing indicative minimum sustainability expectations at subproject level would strengthen the consistency and long-term viability of supported innovations.

CR23: Partially Cleared

The proposal outlines relevant mechanisms to support the scaling and financial sustainability of successful innovations, including capacity building for investor engagement, the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace, and knowledge dissemination to promote replication.

However, the operational approach for mobilizing follow-on investment remains insufficiently defined. In particular, further clarity is needed on how promising innovations will be systematically supported to transition from grant-funded pilots to financially sustainable or scaled solutions.

To strengthen this aspect, the proposal may consider clarifying a more structured approach to investment mobilization, including for example:

- Defining how and when subprojects are screened (e.g., mid-term or prior to completion) for scale-up readiness, using agreed criteria (e.g., technical viability, demand, cost-effectiveness, and social inclusion outcomes).
- Outlining whether a subset of high-performing innovations will receive targeted post-selection support (e.g., business model refinement, financial structuring, or investor matchmaking).
- Specifying the role of the Programme Management Unit and partners in facilitating investment linkages (e.g., brokering partnerships with public programmes, development finance institutions, or private sector actors).
- Engaging with financing partners throughout implementation, rather than only at the end of the programme.
- Clarifying at what stages of the programme lifecycle (e.g., incubation, piloting, post-validation) different financing support mechanisms will be deployed.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR22: Cleared (pp. 49–51; Annex V, pp. 5–6).

The revised proposal now defines minimum sustainability requirements for all funded projects, including a proportionate O&M plan, identification of an institution responsible for hosting or supporting the innovation beyond the grant, targeted training and knowledge transfer, and a credible continuation or replication pathway. These requirements will be included in the application form, assessed during selection and monitored during implementation.

The AE response should be corrected to note that the two relevant criteria account for 7.5 points, rather than 10 points, in the Stage 2 matrix; however, this does not prevent clearance.

CR23: Cleared (pp. 49–51).

The revised proposal now provides a structured investment-mobilization approach. Scale-up readiness will be assessed at mid-term and before completion using technical viability, beneficiary demand, cost-effectiveness and social-inclusion criteria. High-performing projects may receive business-model and financial-structuring support, investor matchmaking and assistance preparing follow-on funding proposals. The PMU will actively broker financing relationships, engage potential partners from the first year and apply different support mechanisms across incubation, acceleration, validation and post-grant stages.

Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

(Table 5 and Annex II ESMS)

The overall assessed risk for the project is deemed to be in Category B. The proposal provides an overview of identified risks among AF's ESP principles, but some corrections are needed.

CAR4: The table often says:

"No risk" or "Low risk"

But for USPs, please change to language such as :

"Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through subproject screening."

To monitor ESP principles 1, 4 and 6 is mandatory.

CR24: Please, adjust Table 5 accordingly.

In some cases, the right-hand column narrative does not include a mitigation strategy when there is an identified risk. In the middle-column of Table 5, just check with an "x" if there is "No further assessment required for compliance". This is the case when there is no risk (without reasonable doubt) present for the ESP principle.

CR25: Please, update table 5 accordingly.

There are discrepancies for the Human Rights ESP principle in between Table 5 and Table 2 (Annex II ESMS).

CR26: Please, make sure that these tables are aligned.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4: Not Cleared (Table 7; Annex II ESMS)

The revised proposal and Annex II provide a more complete ESMS for the USP approach, including programme-level screening against the 15 AF ESP principles, Category B classification, subproject-level screening and categorization, exclusion of Category A activities, ESMP requirements, monitoring arrangements, and a grievance mechanism.

The risk classification in Table 7 includes inconsistent use of “No additional actions required,” “No risk,” and “Risk unknown at this stage” across several ESP principles.

Given that subprojects are not yet identified and will be assessed through a USP approach, risk levels cannot be definitively determined at this stage. In line with the Adaptation Fund ESP guidance, each principle should clearly reflect whether it is:

- (i) not applicable,
- (ii) compliant, or
- (iii) associated with risks requiring mitigation.

Please revise Table 7 to ensure consistent classification of risks, avoiding the simultaneous use of “no risk” and “risk unknown” language for the same principle, and ensuring alignment with the USP-based screening approach.

CR24 and CR26: Partially Cleared

ESP Principles 1 (Compliance with the Law), 4 (Human Rights), and 6 (Core Labour Rights) are always applicable and should not be treated as requiring no action. While the proposal acknowledges these principles, Table 7 currently indicates that “no additional actions are required” for some of them.

Please ensure that these principles are consistently reflected as subject to ongoing monitoring and compliance throughout implementation.

CR25 and CR26: Partially Cleared (Table 7; Annex II ESMP)

While the proposal provides mitigation measures for several identified risks, the presentation across Table 7 is not always fully consistent in distinguishing between risk identification and the corresponding management response.

For example:

- Under Principle 13 (Public Health), the table indicates that risks are “unknown at this stage,” while also suggesting that no significant impacts are expected. In such cases, it would be clearer to consistently indicate that risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening and that any required mitigation measures will be defined at that stage and incorporated into the ESMP.
- Under Principle 1 (Compliance with the Law), the table refers to monitoring and compliance with national regulations, but it is not clearly indicated how cases of non-compliance identified during implementation would be addressed, or whether such actions are detailed in the ESMP.

Please ensure that:

- Table 7 consistently distinguishes between risk identification and the need for further assessment or mitigation; and

- where mitigation is required, it is clearly indicated that detailed management measures will be defined through subproject-level assessments and implemented through the ESMP.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR4: Cleared (pp. 51–56; Annex II, Table 2).

The table appropriately reflects that risks for unidentified subprojects will be determined through screening. Where risks are already foreseeable, such as access and equity, gender, pollution and land degradation, risk levels and mitigation measures are provided. Principles for which risks cannot yet be confirmed include ongoing screening, monitoring and ESMP-based management arrangements.

CR24: Cleared (pp. 51–56; Annex II, Table 2).

Principles 1, 4 and 6 are explicitly subject to mandatory screening, monitoring and compliance verification throughout implementation.

CR25: Cleared (pp. 51–56; Annex II, Table 2).

The table provides mitigation measures for identified and potential risks and confirms that additional measures will be defined through subproject screening and incorporated into the relevant ESMPs. The “X” entries for Principles 8 and 11 are acceptable where no further assessment is required or the relevant activities are excluded.

CR26: Cleared (pp. 51–56; Annex II, Table 2).

The treatment of Human Rights is substantively aligned: risks will be determined through subproject screening, while non-discrimination, inclusion, technical support and ongoing ESMP monitoring are mandatory.

Resource Availability

Is the requested project funding within the parameters for large grants set by the Board?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes complies with the Board decision on programme size. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: New CAR16: The detailed Annex I formulas appear to carry an approximately \$0.08 rounding residue, producing \$8,000,000.08 rather than exactly \$8,000,000. This is minor but should be corrected in the workbook.

GENERAL COMMENT: The Implementation Arrangements section has changed the Numbers of the sections. Please ensure consistency with the proposal template numbering. The section starts with III.A.....

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: New CAR16: Cleared. (Annex1)

Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes.

The IE fee is 10% of total project/programme cost.

[5 Feb 2026]

Eligibility of IE

Is the programme submitted through an eligible Multilateral or Regional Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board? Is the programme submitted by an entity that has been invited by the Board to do so?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: No.

Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) is under reaccreditation.

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 decided to proceed with the development of the funding proposal.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: At its forty-sixth meeting, through Decision B.46/9, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to grant an extension of accreditation to all implementing entities accredited by the Fund, and entities that are currently under Panel review for reaccreditation or due for reaccreditation, until 31 October 2027. [5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: At its forty-sixth meeting, through Decision B.46/9, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to grant an extension of accreditation to all implementing entities accredited by the Fund, and entities that are currently under Panel review for reaccreditation or due for reaccreditation, until 31 October 2027.

Implementation Arrangements

Does the proposal include adequate arrangement for programme management at the multi-regional/regional and national level, including coordination arrangements within countries and among them? Has the potential to partner with national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs), been considered, and included in the management arrangements?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

Several organizational arrangements in the proposal support the programme's national and regional coordination work including:

- The programme management facilitates coordination arrangements within countries while enabling national science community partnerships and institutional strengthening while bringing together research centers and rural development centers, agricultural producers, and innovation institutions with local governments and public institutions.
- Regional coherence will be enabled by the programme by CAF and FONTAGRO joint identification, validation, and scaling of innovative adaptation solutions that address common climate challenges in the region.
- The standardized criteria and coordinated technical assistance will serve to overcome fragmentation and variable country-specific approaches.
- Under Component 3, NDAs and other organizations involved in the formulation of climate projects, such as multilateral, regional, or national agencies (NIEs), will also be invited to participate in meetings aimed at communicating and disseminating results to support the scaling and replication of successful experiences. (activity 3.1.2, Para 99)

CR26: Please, elaborate further on how the programme's organizational arrangement could facilitate collaboration between the countries under the programme and how it also enables NIEs if possible to partner with the anticipated work under the programme.

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

CAR5: The proposal includes references to FONTAGRO as the implementing partner. Please note that in AF terminology only CAF is recognized at the implementing entity. The proposal also mentions that "FONTAGRO, as a mechanism hosted within IICA, will serve as the Implementing Partner and will lead the technical execution of the program". Please use consistent terminology. If needed the programme may have 2 executing entities.

CR27: Please provide further details regarding the institutional and financial arrangements between the implementing partners. Specifically, please clarify whether any payments or administrative fees will be exchanged between FONTAGRO and IICA, or between FONTAGRO and CAF, to ensure that there is no duplication of costs and that the fund allocation remains transparent and cost-effective.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR26: Partially Cleared (main text; paras 90–99; Component 3)

The proposal outlines several organizational arrangements that support national coordination and regional coherence, including the role of Science–Community Partnerships, coordinated technical assistance, and the joint involvement of CAF and FONTAGRO in identifying and scaling innovations. It also indicates that NDAs and other stakeholders, including National Implementing Entities (NIEs), may participate in dissemination and knowledge-sharing activities.

However, further clarification would be beneficial on how these arrangements will operationally facilitate collaboration across participating countries. In particular, it would be useful to explain how cross-country learning, exchange, and joint problem-solving will be structured (e.g., through regional platforms, communities of practice, or coordinated calls).

In addition, the proposal could further clarify how NIEs may engage beyond participation in dissemination activities, including whether there are opportunities for collaboration in implementation, co-financing, or scaling of successful innovations within national contexts.

CAR5: Cleared (paras 260–265; institutional arrangements section)

The revised proposal clearly defines the institutional roles and responsibilities in line with Adaptation Fund terminology, with CAF acting as the Implementing Entity, IICA as the Executing Entity, and FONTAGRO providing technical support as an executing partner. The respective responsibilities for fiduciary oversight, programme execution, and technical functions are well described, and financial arrangements are transparent, with no duplication of administrative or management fees.

As an advisory note, it is recommended that the current institutional arrangement be maintained throughout implementation. Any future modification to designate FONTAGRO as an additional Executing Entity would require formal approval through the Adaptation Fund's processes (including Board non-objection and potential revision of legal agreements), which could delay implementation.

CR27: Cleared (paras 263–265; institutional arrangements section)

The revised proposal clearly describes the institutional and financial arrangements between CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO. It confirms that CAF retains fiduciary responsibility, IICA is responsible for execution, and FONTAGRO provides technical support without receiving administrative or management fees. The proposal also clarifies that all costs are activity-based, embedded within IICA's execution budget, and that no parallel structures or overlapping fees are introduced. This adequately addresses the requirement for transparency and cost-effectiveness.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR26(Implementation Arrangements): Cleared (pp. 34–35).

The proposal now establishes structured cross-country learning through the FONTAGRO platform, regional workshops, peer exchanges and joint problem-solving among Science–Community Partnerships. It also provides for annual exchanges with NIEs, Designated Authorities and national institutions to explore replication, scaling, institutional support and links to national programmes or financing pipelines.

Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?

Response: Cleared

Are there measures in place for the management of environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Needs clarification (Annex II ESMS).

- The programme has an Environmental and Social Management Plan that tracks identified risks or any new risks, ensuring that they are adequately assessed, monitored, reported and addressed.
- Screening templates for environmental and social risks are in place, as well as an exclusion list.
- Roles and responsibilities are in place for the implementation of the ESMS.
- A grievance mechanism is also developed including detailed phases of the complaint mechanism.
- There are budgetary provisions for environmental and social safeguards (quarterly and annually) (Table 7, p.51)

“No risk / risk-free” language is not credible for USPs

The annex repeatedly says “No risk” for principles like Compliance with the Law, Human Rights, Labour rights. For USPs, risks are unknown until subprojects are defined, even if mitigations are robust.

CAR6: Please revise the narrative to reflect that, because subprojects are unidentified at this stage, several principle-level risks cannot be fully confirmed ex ante and will be determined through subproject screening, while maintaining the described mitigation and monitoring measures.

Pre-disbursement requirements are still not fully explicit

The annex mentions “ESMPs must be submitted before the start of implementation,” but it’s still not explicit that disbursement is conditional on safeguards documentation and (where relevant) permits/licenses.

CR28: Please specify the minimum safeguards documentation and regulatory evidence required as conditions for (i) subproject approval and (ii) first disbursement, including how the PMU will verify completion (e.g., approved ESMP/ESIA as applicable; evidence that permits/licences are secured or formally initiated where timing requires it), and how non-compliance will delay or suspend disbursements.

CAR7: The project includes some internal inconsistencies / copy issues

- A few sections reference Annex I vs Annex II inconsistently for screening tools.
- “Revolving Fund” appears in the GRM text (seems copied from another project). The project doesn’t have a revolving fund
- “AF ESGP” appears once (should be AF ESP / ESMS).

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR6: Not Cleared (Annex II ESMS; risk screening table)

The ESMS includes instances where certain ESP principles (e.g., Compliance with the Law, Human Rights, Labour Rights) are characterized as “No risk” or “risk-free.” However, given that subprojects are not yet identified and will be determined through a USP approach, risks cannot be definitively assessed at this stage.

Please revise the narrative and risk tables to reflect that, for USPs, risks are unknown at this stage and will be determined through subproject-level screening, while maintaining the proposed mitigation and monitoring framework.

CR28: Partially Cleared (Annex II ESMS; implementation arrangements)

The proposal indicates that subprojects will be required to prepare ESMPs prior to implementation. However, it is not yet fully explicit how safeguards requirements will be operationalized as conditions for subproject approval and disbursement.

Please clarify, at a high level:

- the minimum safeguards documentation required prior to subproject approval and/or first disbursement (e.g., ESMP or other relevant instruments, as applicable);
- whether disbursement is conditional upon completion of these requirements; and
- how the Programme Management Unit will verify compliance and manage cases of non-compliance (e.g., delayed or suspended disbursement).

Providing this clarification would strengthen the enforceability of the ESMS during implementation.

CAR 7: Cleared (Annex II ESMS – GRM section)

The revised proposal provides a comprehensive and operational grievance redress mechanism in Annex II, including clearly defined institutional arrangements, multiple access channels, timelines, confidentiality provisions, and a structured process for complaint handling, resolution, and closure. The mechanism is accessible to stakeholders, incorporates provisions for vulnerable groups, and is aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Complaints Mechanism. This adequately addresses the requirement. [5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR6: Cleared (Annex II, pp. 1 and 4–12).

The ESMS now appropriately recognizes that the risks of unidentified subprojects cannot be fully determined ex ante. It states that project-specific risks will be established through subproject screening and retains the required mitigation, monitoring and ESMP arrangements. The previous “no risk” or “risk-free” characterization has been removed for Compliance with the Law, Human Rights and Fundamental Labour Rights.

CR28: Cleared (pp. 20–22 and 63–65; Annex II, pp. 13–17 and 23–26).

The revised workflow now specifies the safeguards conditions for approval and disbursement. Required documentation includes the E&S screening and categorization, an approved ESMP proportionate to the risk category, GAP, stakeholder engagement plan where applicable, and relevant national permits or licences. These documents must be approved before the grant agreement and first disbursement.

The PMU verifies compliance, monitors ESMP and GAP implementation and regulatory status, and may require corrective action. Significant or unresolved non-compliance can result in delayed or suspended disbursements and, for critical or repeated breaches, termination of funding.

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Needs clarification. See comment above related to the GAP.

- The PMU is responsible for coordinating implementation of the M&E work.
- A specialized consultant (support PMU) will develop and monitor a specific M&E plan for each funded project.
- A budgeted, monitoring and evaluation plan is provided (Table 7).
- Provisions for mid-term and terminal evaluations, and monitoring of environment, social and gender safeguards are included.

- Key M&E milestones are in place.

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: The proposal clearly defines the M&E responsibilities of the PMU, CAF, IICA and funded partnerships and includes a budgeted M&E plan, baseline reporting, periodic monitoring, PPRs, field verification, a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation. It also requires collection and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and, where relevant, ethnicity and Indigenous status.

The Gender Action Plan includes quantitative targets and indicators covering women beneficiaries, leadership and decision-making, women-led partnerships, access to financing and innovation resources, participation in technical roles, and empowerment outcomes. Results will be aggregated through the FONTAGRO monitoring platform and reported through PPRs, the mid-term review and the final evaluation.

However, full clearance remains subject to resolving NEWCR30, particularly the allocation and potential overlap of M&E, audit, reporting and supervision costs across project components, execution costs and the IE fee.

Response: Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Linked with NewCAR30: Cleared (pp. 65–68; results framework; Annex IV).

The proposal clearly defines M&E responsibilities and provides for baseline reporting, periodic monitoring, PPRs, field verification, mid-term and final evaluations, and disaggregated data collection. The Gender Action Plan includes quantitative gender and empowerment indicators and arrangements for portfolio-level aggregation and reporting. Any remaining questions concerning the allocation or potential overlap of M&E, audit, reporting and supervision costs will be addressed separately under NEWCR30.

Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat:

The proposal shows inconsistent use of dots and commas in numerical figures throughout the document e.g. table 10, 11, 12)

CAR8: Please ensure a consistent numerical format across the entire proposal. Specifically, it is recommended to use a comma (,) as the thousands separator (e.g., 1,000,000).

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR8: Cleared (financial tables; Tables 13–15)

The updated proposal ensures all financial tables use the same number format and places commas to separate thousands. A minor isolated typographical instance as mentioned below does not affect readability or interpretation but please correct.

There is one instance:

- “3.000” instead of “3,000” (see page 81 in second column)

[5 May 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR8: Partially cleared (pp. 82–91).

The financial tables now consistently use commas as thousands separators, and the previously identified “3.000” has been corrected.

Items appropriately placed under the IE fee

The following are correctly allocated to CAF’s IE fee:

- Inception Report: \$2,000
- Baseline Data Report: \$6,000
- Annual PPR preparation and oversight: \$80,000
- CAF follow-up/supervision missions: \$40,000
- Mid-term evaluation: \$40,000
- Final evaluation: \$70,000
- Final Project Completion Report: \$10,000
- Audit functions: \$40,000

These correspond to IE supervision, development or oversight functions under the harmonized guidance.

One clarification is requested: CAF corporate costs – \$146,070

Corporate costs can legitimately cover portfolio administration, accounting, information systems, engagement with the Fund and institutional oversight. However, the description also refers to ESS activities, project-cycle staff, country engagement, capacity building and travel. These could overlap with:

- the \$187,200 oversight line;
- the \$214,000 M&E Specialist;
- component-funded ESS and Gender Specialists;
- project travel; and
- IICA’s \$475,786 administrative cost.

The basis for the \$146,070 should therefore be provided, together with confirmation that it excludes activities charged elsewhere.

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR8: Cleared (Table 16, IE management fee).

The revised description and accompanying clarification adequately explain the USD 146,070 corporate-cost allocation. These costs relate to CAF’s corporate and portfolio-level functions across the regional programme, including institutional administration, country engagement, information systems, portfolio-level project-cycle functions, ESS policy management and participation in Adaptation Fund-level activities. CAF has also confirmed that the amount excludes project-specific supervision and site visits, M&E activities, component-funded ESS and Gender Specialists, project travel, and IICA’s execution and administrative costs.

Is an explanation and breakdown of the execution cost included?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: No.

The proposal lacks a detailed breakdown of the Execution Entity (EE) fees.

CAR9: Please provide a granular breakdown of the Execution Entity (EE) fees.

Here you can also see a breakdown of what is eligible under IE and EE fees: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/generic/costs-and-fees/>

[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR9: Not Cleared (Project Execution Cost table on page 84)

The revised proposal provides a detailed breakdown of the Project Execution Costs, including line items for personnel, audits, travel, training, and administrative costs. The administrative cost component is also explained and justified as a proportion of execution costs, consistent with Adaptation Fund practices. This adequately addresses the comment.

However, the total execution cost is listed as 712,270, but the sum of the items in the Detailed Budget (p. 97) appears to be 615,680. Please correct the figure and review all budget amounts.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR9: Not Cleared (pp. 84–91; Annex I).

The detailed execution-cost breakdown now reconciles to USD 712,270 and remains within the applicable 10% cap for regional Innovation programmes. However, the USD 475,786 IICA administrative cost is incorrectly described as 7% of execution costs; it is calculated as 7% of the project activity costs plus the other direct execution-cost lines. It represents 66.8% of total execution costs and requires a clearer calculation basis, institutional justification and explanation of the services covered. In addition, USD 40,000 for annual IICA audits remains under execution costs while a further USD 40,000 for audit functions is included under the IE fee. Please revise the allocation and confirm that there is no overlap with the Administrative Assistant, financial-reporting costs or CAF corporate costs.

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR9: Cleared (pp. 84–91; Annex I).

The detailed execution-cost budget reconciles to USD 712,270 and remains within the applicable cap. The incorrect description of IICA's administrative cost as 7% of execution costs has been removed, and the revised budget adequately explains the institutional and operational services covered by the consolidated administrative-cost line.

The separate Administrative Assistant and annual IICA audit lines have been removed. IICA's administrative costs relate to programme execution, including transaction processing, procurement, payments, financial reporting, personnel administration, coordination between headquarters and country offices, and preparation of financial statements and supporting audit documentation. These functions are distinct from CAF's USD 40,000 audit-related allocation, which covers CAF's fiduciary oversight, internal controls, compliance verification and administration of the project account at the Implementing Entity level. They are also distinct from CAF's portfolio-level corporate costs.

The technical and financial progress-reporting allocation relates to the Programme Coordinator's preparation and consolidation of implementation reports and is already identified as included within PEC. No separate duplication is evident.

Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR10: Please revise both tables 7 and 10 to ensure that baseline report, audit and MTR-related costs are all budgeted under the IE fee. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR10: Cleared (Page 85).

NEWCR30: Table 9; M&E budget allocation

The proposal provides a detailed monitoring, reporting, and evaluation plan with associated budget allocations. However, some inconsistencies remain in the allocation of costs between project components, execution costs, and the Implementing Entity fee, in relation to Adaptation Fund cost guidance.

In particular:

- The Inception Report is currently budgeted under the programme budget, whereas this activity is typically considered part of project cycle management and should be covered under the Implementing Entity fee.
- Some reporting-related activities (e.g., technical and financial progress reporting) appear to combine implementation-level support functions with oversight functions, and their allocation between execution costs and the Implementing Entity fee is not fully clear.

Please review the allocation of M&E-related costs to ensure consistency with Adaptation Fund guidance on the distinction between:

- project implementation and execution support (execution costs); and
- project supervision, reporting oversight, and evaluation functions (Implementing Entity fee).

Use the table presented here as guidance: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/generic/costs-and-fees/>
[5 May 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: NEWCR30: Partially Cleared (pp. 69–70 and 89–91).

The Inception Report has been moved to the IE fee, and the proposal now generally distinguishes implementation-level monitoring and reporting from CAF's supervision and evaluation functions. This is broadly

consistent with the Fund's cost guidance.

However, potential duplication remains:

- Table 15 includes USD 40,000 for annual IICA audits under PEC, while Tables 11 and 16 include another USD 40,000 for audits under the IE fee. Table 11 appears to describe the IE-fee amount as covering both annual EE audits and the final IE audit.
- Preparation of financial reports is included within the USD 475,786 administrative charge, while technical and financial reporting is also separately budgeted at USD 26,000 under the programme budget.

Please distinguish the precise scope of each audit and reporting allocation and confirm that there is no double counting.

Under the harmonized table, all audit-related costs are to be covered through the IE fee. The \$40,000 IICA audit allocation should therefore be removed from EE costs or consolidated within IE fee. Since IE fee is already essentially at its 10% cap, this would require a corresponding reduction elsewhere in the IE fee.

Component 3 includes a separate \$14,000 M&E consultant to review results reports, provide feedback and train the team in preparation of baseline reporting. The \$14,000 may be eligible under a component when it supports subproject data quality and beneficiary-level evidence, but the proposal should expressly distinguish this from CAF's BDR supervision and preparation functions.

There are several potentially overlapping pools:

- \$40,000 for CAF follow-up missions in Table 11;
- \$187,200 for project oversight and site visits in the IE fee;
- \$240,000 under Component 3 for territory visits and monitoring;
- \$23,084 of execution travel; and
- \$72,000 for annual FONTAGRO workshop travel.

The functions could well be different, but the proposal needs to distinguish/ clarify the purpose:

- CAF supervision and verification missions — C;
- PMU and technical-specialist visits supporting subproject implementation and evidence generation — A or B;
- administrative and Steering Committee execution travel — B; and
- regional learning-event travel — A.

Roles and Timing: The M&E narrative states that the PMU prepares the Final Project Report, while Table 11 assigns responsibility to CAF. The appropriate distinction is that the PMU/IICA supports or prepares the underlying report and CAF supervises, reviews and validates it.

The Inception Report timeframe also appears to say "one month after completion," which should be corrected to one month after programme start, effectiveness or the inception workshop. The Baseline Report timing should also be harmonized, as different versions refer to two or three months after selection.

CAR10: Cleared (pp. 69–70 and 91).

The baseline report, PPR preparation, mid-term evaluation, final evaluation, final report and relevant oversight functions are now allocated under the IE fee. Any remaining audit overlap is addressed under NEWCR30.

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: NEWCR30: Cleared (pp. 69–70 and 84–91).

The separate IICA audit allocation has been removed from PEC, and the USD 40,000 retained under the IE fee is clearly limited to CAF's fiduciary oversight and audit-related responsibilities. Technical and financial progress reporting is confirmed as included within IICA's administrative costs in PEC, with the Programme Coordinator preparing the underlying inputs and IICA undertaking their consolidation and processing.

The USD 14,000 M&E Consultant supports subproject-level data quality, results reporting and beneficiary-level evidence generation and is clearly distinguished from CAF's programme-level supervision and Baseline Data Report functions. The travel allocations are also differentiated among CAF supervision and verification, technical-specialist support and evidence generation, programme execution and governance travel, and regional learning events. The USD 40,000 for CAF verification missions is identified as part of—not additional to—the USD 187,200 project-oversight line.

Finally, the proposal now distinguishes the PMU/IICA role in preparing and consolidating Final Project Report inputs from CAF's responsibility for review, validation and submission. The Inception and Baseline Report timelines have also been harmonized. No material overlap or double counting remains evident.

Is the timeframe for the proposed activities adequate?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes.
(Project calendar, p. 16) [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes but dates need revision see CAR15

Is a summary breakdown of the budget for the proposed activities included?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Clarification is needed.

CAR11: Please ensure that the clarifications requested in CAR1 are addressed as a priority. Furthermore, following the request for a more granular breakdown of Activities, please provide a detailed budget. This budget should specify cost allocations for each Activity and sub-activity (as applicable), categorized by expenditure types, and integrated with a corresponding timeline to ensure fiscal transparency and operational feasibility.
[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR11: Cleared (Table 13; detailed budget, Pages 78-84)

The revised proposal provides a comprehensive and granular budget breakdown, including allocations at the level of components, outputs, activities, and sub-activities. Costs are clearly categorized by expenditure type and disaggregated across implementation years, with accompanying notes and assumptions. This ensures adequate fiscal transparency and operational clarity and addresses the requirements of the comment.
[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: The proposal includes a summary financing table by component and output, showing project activities of USD 6,560,460, execution costs of USD 712,270, an IE fee of USD 727,270, and total requested financing of USD 8,000,000. It also provides a detailed budget by activity, subactivity, expenditure category and implementation year, with accompanying assumptions.

The outstanding cost-allocation and consistency issues identified under CAR9 and NEWCR30 do not change the assessment that a summary budget breakdown is included.

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Further revisions needed.

As the project results framework includes only one objective-level indicator, please ensure that Table 9 reflects a single objective-level indicator.

CAR12: Revise the upper section of table 9 accordingly, ensuring that the indicated grant amount matches the total project activity cost (USD 6,545,460). Finally, for consistency, please ensure that all Fund Outcomes associated with the Fund Outputs listed in the lower section of table 9 are also reflected in the upper section.

CAR13: The proposal lacks the inclusion of indicator tables. For each AF Core Indicators relevant to the project interventions (at minima the "Number of beneficiaries"), please add in Part II.W the corresponding Core Indicators table(s) available on pp.10-14 of the document "Methodologies for reporting Adaptation Fund core impact indicators". For guidance, see: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/AF%20Core%20Indicator%20Methodologies.pdf>

CR29: Kindly ensure that "Baseline" and "Target at project approval" columns are duly completed in each indicator table, and ensure that the figures provided in the tables align with those included in the project results framework. While filling out the "Number of beneficiaries" core indicator table, please disaggregate direct and indirect beneficiaries by gender and youth.

CAR14: For each AF Core Indicators relevant to the project interventions (at minima the "Number of beneficiaries"), please add in Part II.W the corresponding Core Indicators table(s) available on pp.10-14 of the document "Methodologies for reporting Adaptation Fund core impact indicators". Kindly ensure that "Baseline" and "Target at project approval" columns are duly completed in each table, and ensure that the figures provided in the tables align with those included in the project results framework. While filling out the "Number of beneficiaries" core indicator table, please disaggregate direct and indirect beneficiaries by gender and youth.
[5 Feb 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR12: Not Cleared (Table 12; alignment with AF Results Framework and revised SRF)

While the proposal provides a structured alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Results Framework, several inconsistencies remain that require revision to ensure full compliance with the Fund's guidance and the revised Strategic Results Framework.

In particular:

- The objective-level section combines multiple indicators linked to different Fund Outcomes within a single structure, which reduces clarity. Please ensure that the presentation follows the AF guidance by clearly structuring objective indicators and their corresponding Fund Outcomes without mixing or aggregating across outcomes.
- The grant amounts presented at the objective level do not fully align with the total project activity cost (USD 6,545,460) and should be corrected to ensure consistency.
- The alignment between Fund Outcomes and Outputs should be reviewed to ensure that Outputs listed in the lower section correspond clearly and consistently to the Outcomes presented in the upper section.
- Please ensure that the exact wording and structure of the Adaptation Fund Outcomes and Outputs are used consistently throughout the table, including the correct use of Outcome 8 and its corresponding outputs (e.g., Outputs 8.1 and 8.2), in line with the updated Strategic Results Framework available here: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/update-to-the-adaptation-fund-strategic-results-framework-2/>

CR29, CAR13 and CAR14: Cleared (Page 67). A core indicator on Beneficiaries is included. Baseline (“o”) and “Target at project approval” columns are completed.
[5 May 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR12: Cleared (pp. 82–83).

The grant amount has been corrected to USD 6,560,460, and Outcome 8 and Outputs 8.1 and 8.2 are appropriately reflected.

CR29, CAR13 and CAR14: Cleared (pp. 70–71).

The core beneficiary table includes baselines and targets with sex and youth disaggregation. The label “Youth direct beneficiaries” in the indirect-beneficiary section should be corrected to “Youth indirect beneficiaries.”

Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: 11. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included? Clarification is needed.

The Disbursement Schedule (section Z) should be revised using the AF template format: Disbursement Schedule Template

CAR15: Please update the disbursement schedule.

In addition to the formatting, please ensure the following technical adjustments are made:

- Decimal Points: All budget figures must be presented as whole numbers only (no decimal points).
- Summation Integrity: The totals reflected in all summary tables must correspond exactly to the sum of the visible, rounded figures provided in the tables, rather than any underlying unrounded values from the original spreadsheet.
- Cross-Verification: Please verify that all horizontal and vertical totals are mathematically consistent throughout the entire document to eliminate any discrepancies. CAR15: Cleared (Page 85).

Note: All Financial Tables will be rechecked at technical clearance stage for consistency. [5 Feb 2026]

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR15: Cleared (Page 85).

Note: All Financial Tables will be rechecked at technical clearance stage for consistency.

[5 May 2026]

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR15: Not Cleared (p. 91).

The disbursement schedule still begins in July 2026, which is no longer feasible given the anticipated approval timing. Please update all scheduled dates based on the expected agreement signature and project start date

Response: Not Cleared

IE:

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR15: Cleared (p. 88).

The disbursement schedule has been updated based on the anticipated agreement signature and revised programme start date. The initial disbursement is scheduled for March 2027, followed by annual disbursements in March 2028, March 2029 and March 2030. The project funds and Implementing Entity fees reconcile to the total requested financing of USD 8,000,000.

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



ADAPTATION FUND

**PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION:
AFCIA PROGRAMMES**

REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

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

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

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

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1818 H Street NW
MSN N7-700
Washington, D.C., 20433
U.S.A
Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org



ADAPTATION FUND

MULTI/ REGIONAL INNOVATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION¹

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

¹ Key policy documents: [Programme on innovation: operational policy and guidance to the adaptation fund climate innovation accelerator \(AFCIA\) implementing entities](#),

[Guidance to implementing entities for application of innovation indicators for fully developed project/Programme proposals](#) provides guidance on the new indicators that should be referenced when presenting alignment of project objectives and outcomes with the Fund level strategic outcome for innovation (Outcome 8).

² The Programme can have a thematic focus or foci, such as the following (i.e. this is not an exhaustive list): Agriculture and food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Forests and land use management; Human health, including maternal and child health and welfare etc.; Innovative adaptation financing; Local traditional ecological knowledge solutions, including harnessing or revival of indigenous, traditional solutions; Marine, fisheries, and oceans adaptation; Nature-based solutions, including ones that are biodiversity supporting, in various settings (e.g. urban, peri-urban and non-urbanized); Urban adaptation and Water management.

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Summary

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

A. Project / Programme Background and Context:

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

Climate Context

2. The Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC (AR6, 2023)³ and the report 'State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024' by the WMO (2025)⁴ confirm that the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is highly exposed and vulnerable to climate change, with impacts that are already being manifested in multiple natural and human systems. Among the main identified risks are tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves, all of which have potential impacts on health, livelihoods, the economy, the environment, and the availability of natural resources. In particular, the growing impact of precipitation variability and extreme temperatures is highlighted, directly affecting agricultural production and compromising food security. The study 'Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Index in Latin America and the Caribbean,' conducted by CAF in 2014⁵, highlights the severe consequences that the region could face due to climate change. Given that the region's climate has already begun to experience variations, more significant climate changes are expected in the coming decades. These risks are projected to intensify and become even more serious threats, especially for rural livelihoods, small and medium primary producers, and Indigenous peoples in mountainous areas. The expected effects include a reduction in agricultural and livestock production, loss of arable land, and decreased water availability, severely disrupting supply chains and significantly affecting food availability, income, and the stability of rural livelihoods.
3. The agrifood systems in LAC are highly climate-sensitive, primarily affecting the livelihoods of people who depend directly on these activities (rural communities, small farmers, fishers). Agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing, represent 7% of the regional GDP and 14% of employment (2019 data)⁶. According to FAO (2016)⁷, between 2003 and 2013, the primary sector in the region absorbed 16% of the losses and damage caused by natural disasters. Of this total, 6% corresponded to damages in physical assets, while 23% was related to production losses and direct impacts on livelihoods. Within the sector, crops accounted for 71% of the impacts, followed by forests (13%), livestock (10%), and fishing (6%). Floods were

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

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

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

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

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

responsible for 55% of these losses, followed by droughts (27%) and storms (10%). On average, sector growth was reduced by 2.7% annually due to climate disasters during this period.

4. Between 2005 and 2015, the FAO (2018)⁸ estimates that over 22 billion dollars were lost in the region due to decreased agricultural and livestock production attributed to extreme climate events, with droughts being the costliest, accounting for an estimated 13 billion dollars in losses.
5. The WMO (2025)⁹ indicates that in 2024, in Central America and the Caribbean, abnormally high temperatures increased the incidence of pests and diseases, which multiplied costs for farmers with limited investment capacity. This was compounded by water shortages for irrigation, due to irregular rainfall associated with the El Niño phenomenon, followed by intense rainfall that delayed planting dates, reduced incomes, and increased losses from floods and landslides. Additionally, hurricanes Beryl, Oscar, and Rafael caused significant damage to both producers and the food supply. More recently, in October 2025, Hurricane Melissa devastated extensive agricultural areas in Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti, destroying crops, affecting fisheries, and leaving rural communities without livelihoods, highlighting the enormous impact that extreme events can have on the agricultural sector. In South America, droughts and wildfires severely impacted crops, pastures, forests, and fishing communities, affecting dairy production, and delaying the planting of various crops. At the same time, other countries in the region experienced river floods that led to major losses in crops, livestock, and fishing. The El Niño phenomenon also affected marine fishing in 11 of the 19 main fishing areas identified by the FAO. The impacts were both negative and positive, varying by geographic areas, target species, and types of fishing or aquaculture.
6. Ortiz-Bobea et al. (2021)¹⁰, for their part, estimate that the slowdown in total factor productivity growth in the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean has resulted in a 25.9% decline since 1961 due to climate change.
7. A study by the IDB (2020)¹¹ projects that by 2050, regional agricultural production could decrease by 7.5 percentage points (pp), the planted area by 1.2 pp, and production by 5.2 pp, compared to a scenario without climate change. These projections would result in higher prices, trade deficits in the food market, and a decline below the critical ratio between food supply and demand.
8. In 2023, 28.2% of the population in the region (187.6 million people) suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity. This regional prevalence was below the global estimate; however, the figure rises to 58.8% in the Caribbean¹². Severe food insecurity affected 8.7% of the population in the region (58.1 million people), and in the Caribbean, the prevalence was 28.6% (12.8 million people). Although significant progress was made in reducing the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity—which decreased for the second consecutive year—significant inequalities persist, with marked differences between subregions and population subgroups. The gender gap in moderate or severe food insecurity in LAC was 5.2 percentage points (pp) in 2023, compared to a gap of 1.3 pp globally. Additionally, this form of food insecurity was 6.2 pp higher in rural areas than in urban areas of the region. In 2022, LAC recorded the highest average cost in the world for a healthy diet, estimated at USD 4.56 in purchasing power parity (PPP) per person per day. The Caribbean was the subregion with the highest cost within the region, at USD 5.16 PPP per person per day.¹³
9. In this context of reduced agricultural productivity, disruptions in supply chains, rising food prices, and lower access to healthy diets, ensuring food security and the stability of rural livelihoods will require sustainably increasing agricultural production, not only by boosting productivity but also by protecting and regenerating key ecosystem services essential for the sector's resilience.
10. Considering these challenges, the Adaptation Fund's AFCIA program represents a strategic opportunity to support innovative, locally driven solutions that enhance the adaptive capacity of productive sectors to climate change. Its approach aligns closely with CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy¹⁴, which prioritizes sustainable productivity, climate resilience, and improved rural well-being across its member countries, providing a regional framework to guide investment, innovation,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and adaptation actions in the agricultural sector, as well as FONTAGRO's Medium-Term Plan (2025/2030)¹⁵, whose agenda focuses on sustainability, resilience, and equity in the LAC agrifood sector.

Vulnerability of the agricultural sector in LAC

11. In the region, rural inclusion and resilience are threatened by persistent issues such as rural poverty and structural inequality, as well as by emerging factors that influence resource allocation, including climate change, environmental degradation, gender inequalities, agrifood system transitions, and rapid technological change¹⁶. In LAC, the effects of climate change will be amplified by these inequalities and by the persistence of poverty¹⁷, in a context where the region faces a double burden of hunger and malnutrition, and where food security shows strong territorial and socioeconomic disparities.

Family farming and land tenure

12. The region is characterized by high levels of land fragmentation—with a predominance of small agricultural holdings—and by an unequal distribution of land combined with frequently informal tenure. This set of factors increases productivity gaps, limits access to credit, and reduces investment opportunities for smaller-scale producers, which in turn hinders rural development and climate-adaptation capacity.
13. In this context, family farming constitutes a central social and economic pillar of the agrifood systems in LAC¹⁸. It represents 81.4% of agricultural holdings and occupies 25.3% of the agricultural area¹⁹. Agriculture continues to be the main source of rural employment, accounting for 52.5% of total rural employment in 2021 (ECLAC, 2023). Moreover, family farms occupy 80% of agricultural land and produce 77% of the region's food²⁰, underscoring their importance for food security and territorial resilience.
14. However, family farming has a highly heterogeneous and unequal structure, with farms of different sizes, subsectors, and levels of technical and productive capacity—including subsistence, transitional, and consolidated units—which face distinct challenges and needs²¹. The distribution pattern accentuates this heterogeneity: 62.7% of all farms in the region are five hectares or smaller, while only 4.5% exceed 100 hectares; however, the latter account for nearly 80% of the total land area occupied by farms.

Labor informality and rural poverty

15. Vulnerable rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean are characterized by high levels of economic and labor informality, limited economic autonomy for women, and significant financing and gender gaps. These structural conditions amplify vulnerability to climate change and reduce the capacity of rural households to anticipate, absorb, and recover from extreme climate events.
16. Rural labor informality averages 68.5% in the region, according to ILO and ECLAC estimates²², meaning that roughly seven out of ten workers lack formal contracts, social security, and legal protection. Informality is closely linked to persistent poverty: over half of the rural population lives below the poverty line²³, and among poor rural households, less than half have access to formal employment; in some contexts, only 2% manage to enter the formal labor market²⁴. This situation limits productive investment capacity, reduces access to technology and services, and increases exposure to climate-related losses.

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

¹⁶ FAO, 2025. Inclusive rural transformations in Latin America Reassessing and planning under pressures and constraints. FAO Inclusive Agrifood Systems Working Papers No. 2. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd4580en>

¹⁷ IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). 2022. Fact Sheet: Central and South America – Climate Change Impacts and Risks. (IPCC Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.) Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FactSheet_CentralSouthAmerica.pdf

¹⁸ Family farming is a way of organizing agricultural, forestry, fishery, livestock and aquaculture production that is managed and administered by a family and depends mainly on the capital and labour of its members, both women and men. The family and the farm are interrelated, evolve together and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions (FAO and IFAD, 2019).

¹⁹ FAO. 2025. Characterization of family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges, evidence and perspectives. Santiago, FAO. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3788en>

²⁰ Ibidem

²¹ Ibidem

²² OIT-CEPAL. 2023. Dinámicas del mercado de trabajo rural y el empleo informal en la pospandemia. Coyuntura laboral en América Latina y El Caribe.

²³ CEPAL. 21 de Agosto de 2012. CEPAL. Available at: <https://surl.li/faiwmi>

²⁴ CEPAL-OIT-FAO. 2012. Políticas de mercado de trabajo y pobreza rural en América Latina. Santiago de Chile: CEPAL.

Gender disparities and agricultural inequalities

17. The gender dimension exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. According to the Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change (IICA, 2015), rural women—despite their fundamental role in agricultural production, food security, and natural resource management—face persistent structural gaps that limit their economic autonomy. Their contributions remain underestimated in agricultural statistics and are scarcely reflected in public policies, even though they actively participate in planting, crop management, seed handling, processing, and local marketing.
18. Although female labor participation is lower than male, rural women face particular disadvantages: they make up around 20% of the region's agricultural workforce²⁵, yet are concentrated in the most vulnerable and informal segments. Their employment is often under precarious conditions, with low incomes and unpaid roles in family units, perpetuating inequalities and limiting their economic resilience.
19. It is estimated that around 78% of rural women participate in agricultural activities between the ages of 15 and 59, and in areas with a high indigenous population, a significant proportion of girls under 15 also engage in productive work. However, unequal access to productive resources persists in general, rural and indigenous women face limited access to land, with fewer property or tenure rights over agricultural holdings. Their land is often smaller in size or of lower quality. According to the UN and RCP (2024) 26, 58 million women live in rural areas; however, on average, only 30% own agricultural land, which restricts their access to credit, technical assistance, technology, and insurance. In countries such as Paraguay, Honduras, and Guatemala, the lack of formal land ownership prevents access to productive programs, and their predominance in subsistence units increases their exposure to the impacts of climate change.
20. Even when they participate in cooperatives and rural organizations, their influence on decision-making remains limited. The exclusion of informal women producers from training and technical assistance programs—due to schedules, formats, and designs that are not adapted to their conditions—further reduces their capacity to undertake initiatives and adapt, deepening gender gaps in productive systems.²⁷
21. Unpaid care work constitutes one of the main structural constraints affecting rural women. They combine productive tasks with the majority of domestic and community responsibilities—including childcare, elder care, and household management—which can result in 12- to 14-hour workdays in contexts such as Peru, Bolivia, or Ecuador. This overload limits their access to training, paid employment, and community participation, and is exacerbated under adverse climatic conditions, such as droughts or crop losses. According to UN Women, they spend between two and three times more time than men on unpaid tasks, which directly affects their economic autonomy.
22. Climate change deepens these inequalities. Rural women often face greater exposure to extreme events, soil degradation, and water scarcity, yet have fewer means to anticipate or recover. In the Central American Dry Corridor, for example, they experience higher levels of food insecurity and livelihood loss; in Andean areas of Peru or Bolivia, they have less access to climate information and agricultural extension services. Despite this, rural and indigenous women play a central role in conserving native seeds, diversifying crops, and protecting ecosystems. Their work in watershed management, the recovery of agroecological practices, and the safeguarding of biodiversity makes them key agents for climate resilience and for ensuring food security and sovereignty.

Informality and gaps in specific sectors

23. Forestry: In the forestry sector, labor informality is also widespread. Although it represents a smaller portion of rural employment, forestry activities—particularly in native forests of the Amazon, the Andes, and tropical areas—are characterized by precarious conditions, limited regulation, and high occupational risks.
24. At the global level, the ILO classifies forestry as one of the most hazardous sectors with high levels of informality. In several countries in the region, a significant portion of timber extraction is carried out informally or illegally. The lack of precise data makes it difficult to quantify informality accurately, but there is technical consensus that it is high, particularly in logging, transportation, and artisanal sawmilling activities in remote areas.
25. Although there are formal segments linked to commercial forest plantations—as in Brazil, Chile, or Uruguay—these coexist with extensive areas of traditional exploitation characterized by high informality. The regulatory and institutional capacity gaps contribute to the persistence of these practices.

²⁵ Ibidem

²⁶ United Nations (UN) and Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) Latin America and the Caribbean. 2024. Gender Equality Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-05/en-regionalgenderprofile-lac_vf.pdf

²⁷ Between 1994 and 2010, 12 training voucher programmes for microenterprises were implemented in various Latin American countries, with modalities and content relevant to all microenterprises. In all cases, the participation of women was around 80%. Even in the remaining 20%, young people predominated. These programmes reached millions of people in total, with an offer of between 100 and 200 training institutions, which provided between 900 and 1300 different courses, depending on the country.

26. Female participation in forestry is minimal. Unlike agriculture, the forestry workforce is predominantly male. Women usually engage in nurseries, reforestation, or value-added activities, but generally under informal and low-paid conditions. Gender gaps in the sector are primarily evident in access to employment opportunities.
27. Fishing and aquaculture: The fisheries sector, particularly its artisanal segment, also exhibits high levels of informality. Approximately 2.4 million people work in capture fisheries and another 400,000 in aquaculture in the region²⁸, two-thirds of whom are engaged in artisanal fishing characterized by low incomes, lack of social protection, and limited formalization.
28. Artisanal fishing functions as a subsistence activity or small-scale enterprise, with incomes dependent on daily catches and volatile markets. Most artisanal fishers are independent workers not affiliated with social protection systems, and their vessels are often unregistered, which deepens informality and limits access to financing and insurance.
29. In this sector, women represent around 30% of the workforce in capture fisheries and are predominant in processing, collection, and local marketing activities. However, they are often concentrated in the most vulnerable links of the fisheries value chain—cleaning, filleting, and retail sales—and frequently perform unpaid or very low-paid work. This occupational segregation limits their economic resilience and exposes them more severely to the impacts of climate change.
30. These structural inequalities are reflected in the fact that virtually all women working in the agricultural sector do so under informal conditions, with limited access to land, credit, inputs, and technical assistance. This combination of factors reduces their adaptive capacity, hinders their participation in value chains, and restricts the development of rural female entrepreneurship.

Financing gaps

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

Gaps in innovation for agricultural resilience in LAC

35. The IDB report 'Unleashing Innovation: Assessment of the Role of Agricultural R&D in Latin America and the Caribbean' (2023)³⁰ states that, despite the proven high returns of agricultural R&D&I (research and development and innovation), countries in the region continue to lag behind in allocating adequate resources to this strategic sector. The region has low agricultural innovation capacity, with an average score of 0.35 on the Innovation Capacity Index (ICI). This index measures both the supply (scientific and technological infrastructure) and the demand (adoption of knowledge in the sector). Regional inequality is high: while countries like Chile exceed the average due to their institutional quality and human capital, others like Argentina and Brazil, despite their investment, show gaps in innovation policy.
36. The report concludes that the historical underinvestment in agricultural R&D&I and innovation, especially in smaller countries or those with low institutional capacity, limits the response to increasing climate risks. Additionally, the role of the

²⁸ SELA. 7 de 12 de 2021. SELA. Obtenido de Degradación ambiental amenaza el empleo en América Latina: <https://surl.li/pgusik>

²⁹ CEPAL. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/projects/financial-inclusion-smes/background#A4>

³⁰ BID, 2023. Desatando la innovación: Evaluación del papel de la I+D agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe / Alejandro Nin-Pratt, Gert-Jan Stads, Luis de los Santos, Gonzalo Muñoz.

private sector remains nascent in most countries; public agencies and international cooperation continue to be the main sources of innovation. Across the region, the public sector is the main employer of agricultural researchers, with 50% of all research carried out by government institutions, followed by higher education (38%) and non-profit organizations (12%). Moreover, significant gender disparities persist in research capacity across all countries; in 2020, women accounted for only about 26% of agricultural researchers.

37. The report's recommendations include the integration of research institutions into national science, technology, and innovation systems aligned with agri-food value chains; the strengthening of human and institutional capacities; the promotion of regional partnerships; and the establishment of more flexible and sustainable financing systems.
38. In its first phase, the AFCIA program, implemented by UNEP, financed four incubators in the Bahamas, Ecuador, Suriname, and Guatemala, and two technological accelerators in Honduras and Saint Kitts and Nevis. While three of these projects included components related to agriculture and food security, the greatest emphasis was placed on other key areas for climate adaptation: five projects addressed disaster risk reduction, four focused on water management, and three worked with climate data.³¹
39. Some initiatives related to innovation and adaptation for the agricultural sector being promoted in the region include those of FONTAGRO³², which annually launches open and competitive calls to cofinance innovation networks with a multi-country, multi-actor, and multidisciplinary approach in LAC. These initiatives address the major challenges of agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, generating solutions with regional impact and global projection. Another interesting initiative is the SCALA project, 'Climate Ambition to Improve Land Use and Agriculture,' by UNDP, which responds to the urgent need to increase measures to address the impacts of climate change in the agriculture and land use sectors.
40. These programs highlight the urgent need to increase investment in agricultural innovation to enhance resilience and food security in LAC, as current funding levels remain insufficient to address growing climate risks.
41. The following Table 1 presents the main characteristics of relevant innovation-related initiatives in the region.

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

Programme / Funding Line (LAC)	Financing type	Typical beneficiaries	Characteristics and challenges
FONTAGRO – Innovations for Agricultural Adaptation	Co-financing of R&D&I and pilots	Research institutes, universities, public agencies, regional partnerships	Strong focus on agricultural adaptation in LAC. Requires consortia and solid scientific foundations.
IDB Lab – Innovation for Climate Resilience	Seed capital, grants, and blended financing	Startups, SMEs, cooperatives, and tech ventures	Promotes climate solutions with market potential. Focused on business models.
AgroHub Zamorano (IDB Lab + Zamorano University)	Technical cooperation + support for agrifood ventures/innovation (incubation/acceleration initiatives)	Small farmers, agrifood startups, and rural entrepreneurs in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador	Promotes sustainable agrifood innovation, focusing on climate resilience, sustainability, and inclusion; includes incubation/acceleration, technology transfer, support for rural ventures, and strengthening the AgriFoodTech ecosystem in Central America.
IICA – Climate-Smart Agricultural Innovation Programs/Accelerators	Grants, incubation, and technical assistance	Cooperatives, organized producers, startups, and innovation networks	Focus on adaptation in the agricultural sector. Coverage varies by country and call for proposals.
Climate-LAC Innovation Hub (Regional Partnerships)	Small grants and technical assistance	CSOs, entrepreneurs, innovation labs	Supports territorial climate solutions. Small amounts and limited scale.
Seeds of Innovation (various LAC countries)	Small grants for early-stage ideas	Local organizations, community groups, young innovators	Focus on community-based innovation for resilience. Challenge: low funding and limited continuity for scaling.

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

Lessons learned from innovation projects

³¹ UNDP (n.d.). AFCIA dashboard. Available at: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/afcia/dashboard>

³² For more information see: <https://fontagro.org/es/historias-de-impacto/adaptacion-agricultura-cambio-climatico-lac>

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

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

Barriers to Agricultural Sector Adaptation in LAC

44. According to the IPCC (2022)³⁴, the main barriers faced by agricultural producers in LAC for climate change adaptation are related to the lack of financing and gaps in access to site-specific adaptation knowledge and training. Climate change requires advancing initiatives to improve education, technology, and innovation in agricultural systems in the region.

45. In this regard, CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy (2025)³⁵ identifies a set of structural barriers that limit both climate adaptation and innovation in the agricultural sector of LAC:

- Insufficient financing to enable risk-taking and foster R&D&I in the agricultural sector: Investment in infrastructure, science, and technology remains insufficient in the region. For example, LAC accounts for only 2% of global R&D investment, well below North America and Europe (51%) or Asia (39%). In most countries, except Brazil, investment in science and technology does not exceed 1% of GDP. In addition, the limited availability of innovative and flexible financial instruments restricts access for small producers and vulnerable value chains to climate and technological financing mechanisms. The LAC region faces a structural barrier to financing agricultural innovation, characterized by low, volatile, and unsustainable levels of investment in R&D&I. At the same time, most countries invest less than USD 20 million annually, and relative investment levels are also very low: except for Panama (1.12% of Agricultural GDP, AgGDP) and Costa Rica (0.87%), no country reaches the recommended minimum threshold of investing at least 1% of AgGDP in R&D&I. Five countries allocate even less than 0.25%.³⁶ The result is a fragile regional innovation system, with capacities that cannot be consolidated or respond effectively to the challenges of agricultural productivity and resilient development.

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

³⁴ IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844.

³⁵ CAF, 2025. Prosperidad Agropecuaria. La nueva estrategia de CAF para la producción agropecuaria sostenible, resiliente regenerativa, que contribuya a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, en América Latina y el Caribe, una región de soluciones para los desafíos globales. Available at: <https://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/2416>

³⁶ Nin Pratt, A., Stads, G., Santos, L. d. I., & Muñoz, G. (2023). Desatando la innovación: evaluación del papel de la I&D agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe. Available at: Inter-American Development Bank, <https://doi.org/10.18235/0005006>

- Limited institutional coordination for the generation of innovations: Many national and regional entities have limited capacity to articulate and establish collaborations that enable progress in the design, financing, and scaling of climate innovation projects, particularly those targeting small producers. There is a need to strengthen institutions and their capacity for multisectoral coordination, especially in relation to climate change, agricultural development, and digital and physical infrastructure.
 - Limited spaces for the integration of vulnerable producers in the development and implementation of innovation: Without parallel strengthening of technical assistance and locally adapted digital platforms, the mere availability of technologies does not guarantee their adoption among small and medium producers. A persistent barrier to the adaptation of vulnerable producers in LAC is the limited alignment between those who develop knowledge and innovation and the producers who face the impacts of climate change. Although partnerships and previous experiences exist, gaps in connectivity and information flow persist, making it difficult for innovative solutions to respond in an agile, timely, and appropriate manner to territorial needs. Without complementary support, many producers will not be able to fully benefit from the new technologies.
 - The evidence base on the innovation process and agricultural innovations is very limited: The LAC region suffers from a structural scarcity of evidence on innovation processes and agricultural innovations, which limits the capacity to design effective policies, investments, and programs. Despite recent advances in public spending on agricultural R&D in some countries, measurable research outcomes in terms of implemented technologies, productivity changes, adoption of innovations, or sustainability impacts remain few and scattered.³⁷
 - Successful innovations with limited scaling and replication: Available funding is usually directed toward identifying, incubating, and/or accelerating innovations, but it is still nearly non-existent for recognizing successful innovation cases and creating mechanisms for replication and scaling.
46. In addition, the Strategy identifies nine main challenges for the agricultural sector in the region: the need for policies that comprehensively address structural inequality and the vulnerability of territories and communities; the need for a transition towards low-emission, climate-resilient production processes; insufficient investment levels in infrastructure and technological innovation; the need to strengthen capacity in sectoral institutions, among others.

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

MAIN CHALLENGES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Need for policies that comprehensively address structural inequality and the vulnerability of territories and communities	Growing demand for food in a context of rapid urbanization and new healthy consumption patterns	Urgent need for a transition toward low-emission and climate-resilient production processes	Deficiencies in the management of ecosystems and biodiversity, which limit their capacity to provide supply and provisioning services	Significant losses and waste in food production and distribution
Insufficient levels of public and private investment in infrastructure, technological innovation, and other enabling public goods	Lack of access to markets and integration into value chains	Need to strengthen capacities within sectoral institutions	Opportunity to boost productive development based on nature and knowledge	

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

³⁷ Ibidem

Institutional Responses and Regional Commitments

49. The CAF 2023 Economy and Development Report (RED), 'Global Challenges, Regional Solutions: Latin America and the Caribbean Facing the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis,' emphasizes three key messages for all countries: the importance of adaptation, the need to contribute to global mitigation, and the urgency of preserving natural capital as a key factor in the development process. It also highlights that policies to address these challenges may vary according to the diversity of resources and risks in each country, with potential tensions between opposing objectives and synergies that must be leveraged.
50. The financing needs to achieve development, climate, and biodiversity preservation goals are 0.28% of the region's annual GDP by 2030³⁸. Therefore, CAF has committed to increasing green financing to a minimum of 40% of its financial approvals by 2026 and to being one of the most active institutions in the region in mobilizing resources from major green funds and international partners.
51. Within the framework of the Adaptation Fund, CAF has implemented projects in Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay. These interventions have successfully involved local governments from the earliest stages of the process, allowing them to define, prioritize, design, and directly implement adaptation actions. With other climate funds such as the GCF, CAF is currently implementing climate change adaptation projects in the agricultural sector, such as the project: 'Climate-Smart Initiatives for Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability in Agricultural Production Systems – CSICAP' in Colombia, or the program 'Climate Change: The New Evolutionary Challenge for the Galápagos Archipelago' in Ecuador.
52. These initiatives, along with others approved or currently underway with the support of international funds such as the GEF, have significantly contributed to strengthening institutional capacities, enabling sustained management of long-term adaptation projects, and consolidating their experience in the design and implementation of measures aimed at the agricultural sector.
53. Nature-based economies, including both food and non-food agricultural products, are emerging as a key opportunity for the sustainable development of the region and the world. It is estimated that this market will reach USD 7.7 billion globally by 2030 (Lesenfans et al., 2024).
54. The sustainable transformation of the agricultural sector in the region requires innovative policies focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity preservation, and strengthening productivity with social equity and the inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.
55. The report 'Situation and Prospects of the Agricultural Sector in LAC 2023-2024' (ECLAC, FAO, IICA, 2023) underscores the importance of regional cooperation to face these challenges and transform agri-food systems into more resilient and sustainable models. This requires policies that improve food security, promote innovation, and strengthen resilience to current and future challenges.
56. FONTAGRO's 2025–2030 Medium-Term Plan emphasizes that, in a scenario of increasing climate risks, science, technology, and innovation systems constitute the first line of defense for the agricultural sector, as they provide solutions that reduce losses, increase productivity, and strengthen resilience. Innovations such as advanced biotechnology, digital agriculture, remote sensing, predictive models, gene editing, and artificial intelligence are already transforming the efficient use of water, soils, and nutrients. However, FAO warns that their adoption shows strong asymmetries across countries and territories, revealing significant gaps in infrastructure, human capacities, and governance mechanisms that limit the scale and sustainability of these solutions. In response, the Plan organizes FONTAGRO's institutional action into six Flagship Programs aimed at transforming crops and livestock systems, modernizing extension and technology transfer, advancing digitalization and robotics applied to agriculture, developing the future food basket, and formulating evidence-based policies. These programs provide a roadmap for mobilizing innovation, scaling proven solutions, and generating regional public goods that strengthen food security and climate resilience.
57. In this context, FONTAGRO commits to prioritizing interventions with direct on-the-ground impact and high replication potential—including climate-stress-tolerant varieties, sustainable soil and water management practices, digital agriculture, and early warning systems—which are fundamental for the transition toward climate-smart and inclusive agriculture.

B. Project / Programme Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project/program.

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

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

- To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers³⁹, with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.
59. The program also aims to contribute to the following specific objectives:
- Provide financial support to strengthen partnerships between research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and producer organizations to co-design, test, and accelerate innovative adaptation solutions in vulnerable rural areas of LAC (Component 1).
 - Strengthen the technical capacities of innovation-developing institutions and community change agents to co-design, implement, validate, and scale adaptation solutions (Component 2).
 - Promote the systematization and dissemination of knowledge on innovation in climate change adaptation, generating opportunities for scaling and replicating innovative solutions (Component 3).
60. The program is built by leveraging FONTAGRO's solid experience, with more than 25 years of work in incubating and accelerating agricultural innovation initiatives in LAC. FONTAGRO has in-depth knowledge of the sector's actors in the region and has established mechanisms, tools, and networks to connect institutions and producer organizations that will benefit from this program.

C. Project / Programme Components and Financing:

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

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

Table 2. Financing by component

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

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC	Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	1.1 Regional call for proposals disseminated and Science–Community Partnerships supported for formulating innovative agricultural adaptation projects.	CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.	178,960
		1.2 Innovative agricultural adaptation projects co-designed and financed		5,016,000
Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects.	Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches	CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.	594,180
Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation	Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.	771,320
4. Project/Programme Execution cost				712,270
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				7,272,730
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				727,270
Amount of Financing Requested				8,000,000

D. Projected Calendar:

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

Table 3. Programme calendar

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	March 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	March 2028
Project/Programme Closing	March 2031
Terminal Evaluation	November 2031

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

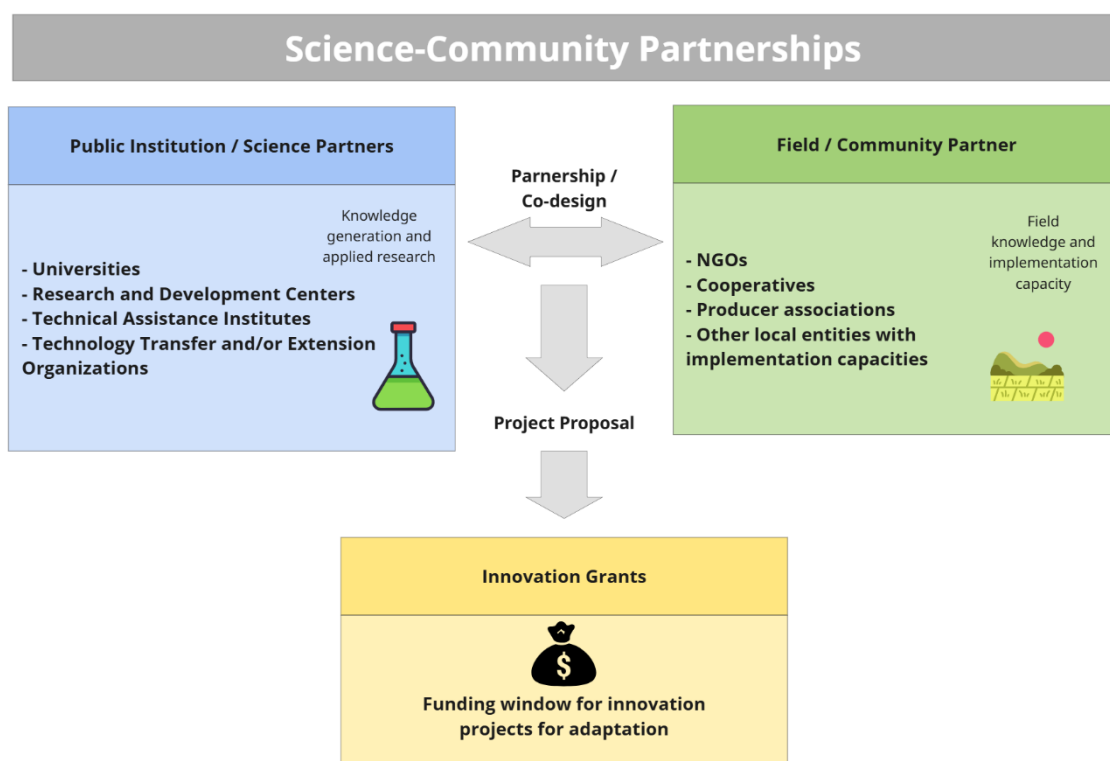
A. Project/program components

Describe the project / program components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities, how these activities would contribute to climate resilience. Describe also how they would build added value through the regional or multi-regional approach,

compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually. Furthermore, show how the combination of individual projects would contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

61. The AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO program is structured into three interconnected components focusing on: 1) financing partnerships for the implementation of innovative adaptation measures during incubation and acceleration stages (Component 1); 2) providing the technical strengthening necessary for the development and implementation of adaptation solutions (Component 2); and 3) systematizing experiences and lessons learned, and disseminating knowledge on innovation in agricultural adaptation to promote scaling and replication (Component 3).
62. **Science–Community Partnerships:** The program will accelerate projects co-designed between scientific actors and the community in areas of high climate vulnerability. These partnerships will integrate scientific knowledge and local experience to generate innovative, scalable, and replicable prototypes and practices, with a direct impact on the adaptation of the agricultural sector.
 - i. Science: public institutions, such as universities, research and development centers, and technical assistance, transfer, and/or extension institutes.
 - ii. Community: an on-the-ground partner, which can be an NGO, a cooperative, an association or group of small- and medium-scale producers, or another local entity with the capacity to implement innovation.
 - iii.

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



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

64. The Theory of Change is structured as a sequential and reinforcing results chain across three components, linking the generation of demand for innovation, the financing and technical strengthening of innovation processes, and the generation of evidence and pathways for scaling.
65. Under Component 1, Output 1.1 and its related activities establish the entry point of the results chain by delivering a regional call for proposals and supporting the formation of Science–Community Partnerships for the formulation of innovative agricultural adaptation projects. Through the design, dissemination, and facilitation of the call for proposals, vulnerable producers, research institutions, and technical partners are enabled to co-design context-specific adaptation solutions. This output directly addresses barriers related to limited opportunities for vulnerable groups to participate in innovation processes.
66. Building on this, Output 1.2 delivers the financing of 20 innovative agricultural adaptation projects, selected through a structured screening process. Financing enables Science–Community Partnerships to operationalize the co-designed solutions generated under Output 1.1 and advance them through iterative test–learn–develop cycles. Together, Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 ensure that innovative ideas are not only generated but also resourced for implementation and learning.
67. Component 2 provides cross-cutting technical reinforcement to the innovation projects financed under Component 1. Through Output 2.1, targeted technical assistance strengthens the capacities of community and institutional actors in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies, including climate change and environmental and social risk management. Complementary open and hybrid innovation sessions under Activity 2.2 ensure inclusiveness and meaningful participation of vulnerable communities throughout the innovation process, reinforcing the quality, relevance, and legitimacy of project results.
68. In parallel, Activity 2.3 strengthens capacities for pitching to funders and showcasing results by organizing a Science–Community Partnership Marketplace. This activity creates a direct linkage between innovation development and future financing and scaling opportunities, enabling successful projects to attract additional resources and partnerships beyond the project's direct financing.
69. Component 3 consolidates and amplifies results generated under Components 1 and 2. Activity 3.1 focuses on monitoring and generating evidence on the innovation process and project results, providing a robust knowledge base on what works, for whom, and under what conditions. Activity 3.2 disseminates results to support scaling and replication of successful innovations, while Activity 3.3 provides incentives to projects with demonstrated scaling-up potential. Together, these activities address systemic barriers related to limited evidence, visibility, and diffusion of successful agricultural adaptation innovations.
70. Across the results chain, strong interlinkages ensure that innovations move from formulation and financing (Component 1) to technical strengthening and inclusiveness (Component 2), and finally to evidence generation, dissemination, and scaling (Component 3), collectively contributing to strengthened climate resilience in agricultural systems across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Operational Workflow for Innovation Projects

71. Figure 4 illustrates the stepwise process through which proposals will be received, assessed, refined with technical assistance, and approved for implementation, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Innovation Pillar and the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy requirements.
72. This approach combines proportional safeguards screening at the application stage with progressive strengthening during incubation, ensuring both rigor and accessibility for local actors, while establishing clear decision points prior to final approval and first disbursement.
73. The program will apply the principle of proportionality in screening and documentation requirements at the application stage, ensuring that the information requested is sufficient for the PMU and the evaluation panel to approve proposals, without compromising compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). In this regard, the project incorporates gender criteria into the proposal selection process. The requirements for these criteria include the direct participation of women and priority groups in training, technical assistance, and exchange programs; the representation of these groups in governance and decision-making structures; and the substantial participation of women in technical and community roles. See section U for further information.
74. FONTAGRO will play a key role in the design and implementation of the call for proposals, building on nearly three decades of experience managing competitive research and innovation calls across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Since its establishment in 1998, FONTAGRO has implemented transparent, merit-based, and open competitive funding mechanisms that have supported hundreds of collaborative projects involving national agricultural research institutions, universities, international organizations, and private-sector partners throughout the region.

75. These processes are governed by the FONTAGRO Operations Manual, which provides the institutional framework for the project cycle, including call design and dissemination, eligibility requirements, proposal submission procedures, evaluation methodologies, project selection, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and closure.
76. Consistent with this framework, project proposals submitted under the AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO call will be evaluated through a transparent and merit-based process involving independent external experts and predefined technical, scientific, financial, institutional, environmental, social, and gender-related criteria. These criteria will be established in the call documents and evaluation matrices, in line with the FONTAGRO Operations Manual and complemented, where appropriate, by additional requirements agreed with CAF, the Adaptation Fund, IICA, and other implementing partners. This will ensure a rigorous, objective, and well-documented selection process based on merit, feasibility, compliance, and expected adaptation impact.
77. Eligible proposals will be assessed by an independent External Evaluation Panel, which will review, score, rank, and recommend proposals for financing. The final financing decision will be adopted jointly by the AFCIA Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO, based on the technical recommendations of the External Evaluation Panel.

Figure 3: Program Theory of Change

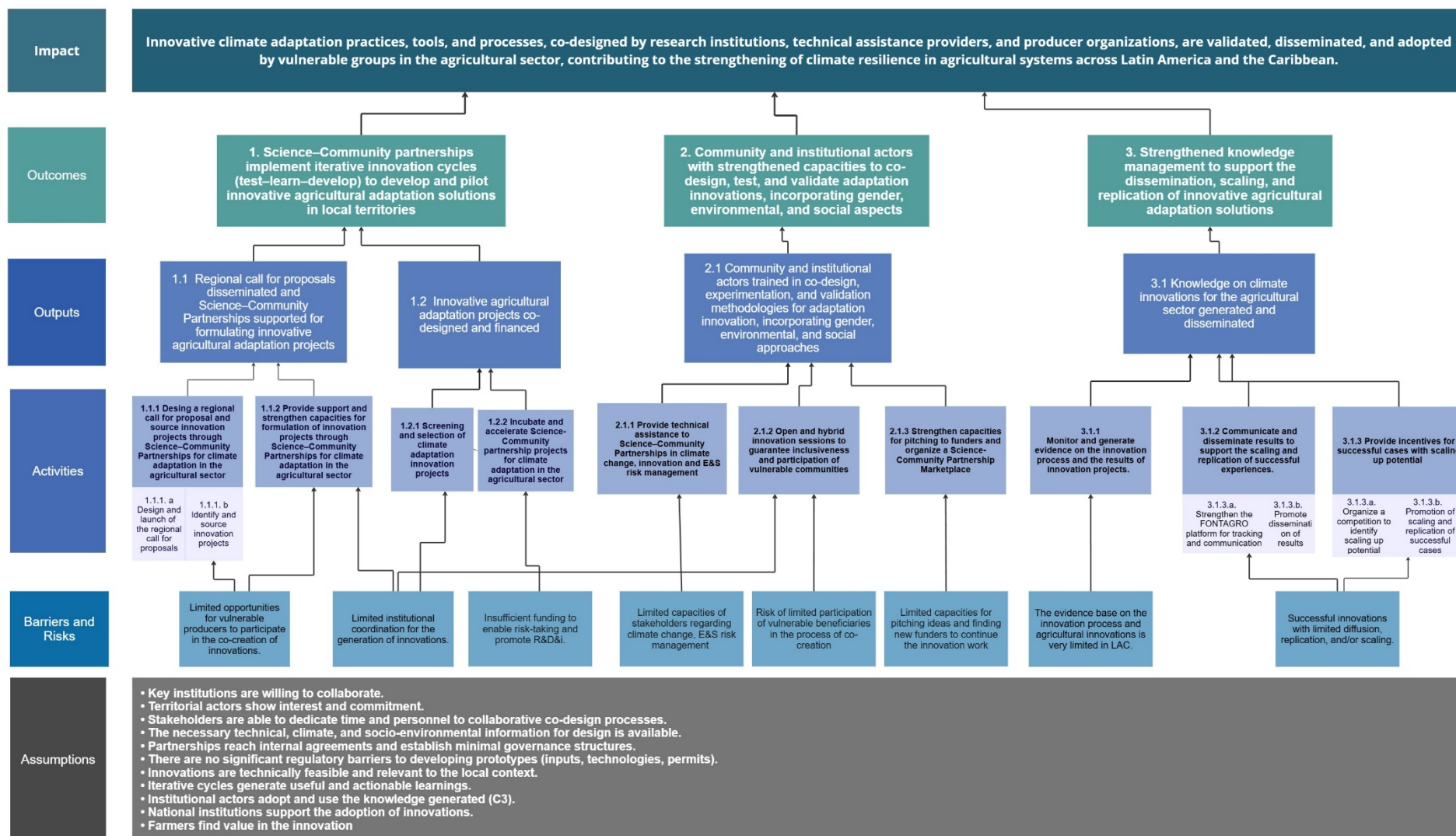
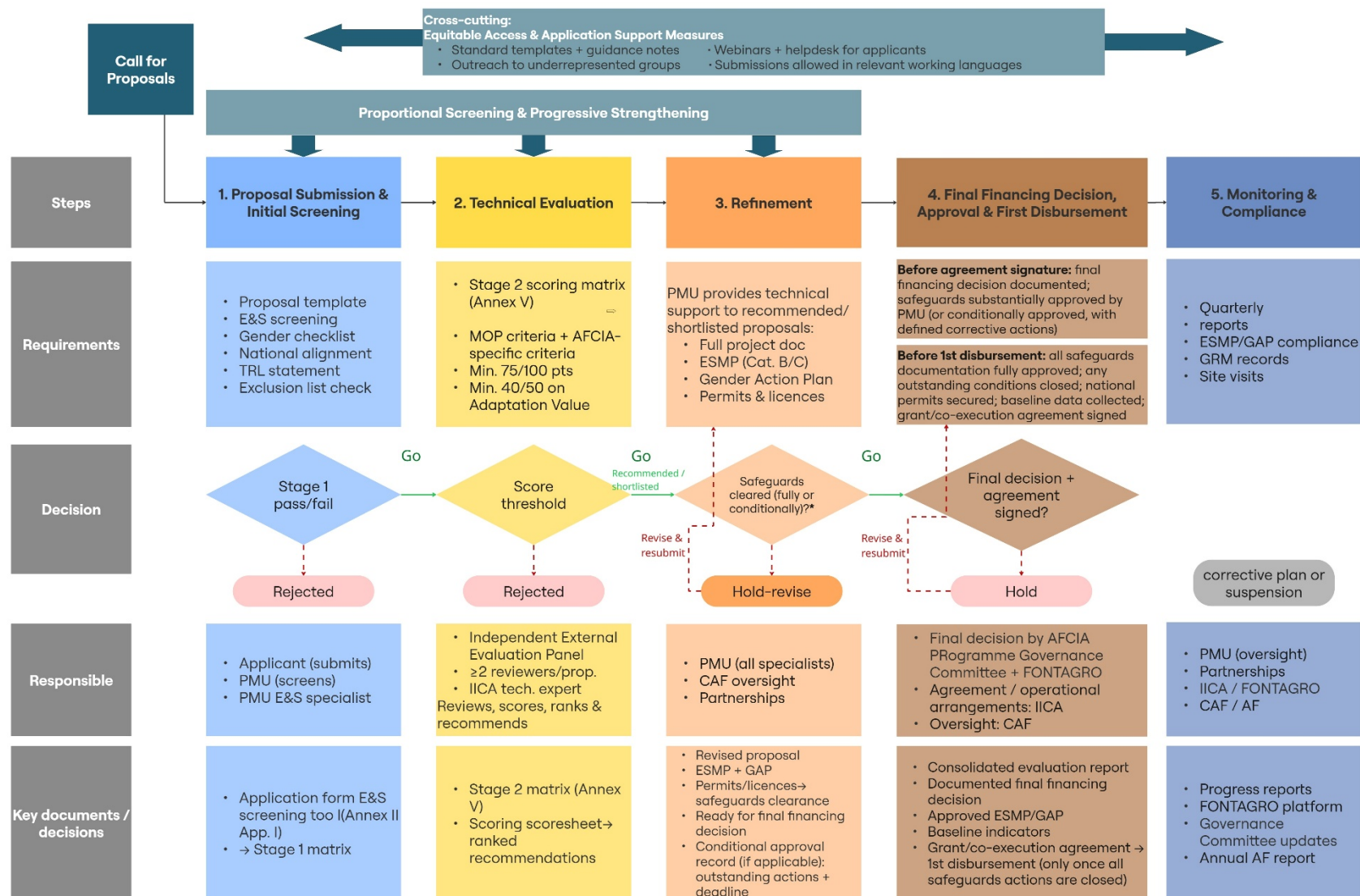


Figure 4: AFCIA operational workflow for proposal selection, refinement, approval, and monitoring.



* Conditional clearance permitted for minor gaps, to be closed before first disbursement (see Table 4, Setp 5; Annex II)

78. Table 4 below presents a step-by-step overview of the operational workflow applied to each subproject, from initial submission through approval, first disbursement, implementation, and monitoring. This table should be read in conjunction with Figure 4 above, which provides the overall program logic, and with Section U and Annex II (ESMS) for the detailed safeguards arrangements applicable at each step.

Table 4. Subproject operational workflow: Sequencing, roles, and decision points

Step	Action	Actor(s) Responsible	Required Documentation / Conditions	Decision Point	Output
1. Submission	Applicant submits full proposal package through FONTAGRO platform	Science–Community Partnership (applicant)	Completed application form; initial E&S risk screening (Annex II, Appendix I); Gender Analysis; alignment with national priorities; TRL statement	—	Proposal received and registered
2. Eligibility & Adaptation Screening (Stage 1)	PMU verifies compliance with all pass/fail criteria	PMU (Environmental & Social Specialist; Programme Coordinator)	Stage 1 criteria matrix (Annex V); Exclusion List (Annex II); E&S risk category check	Go / No-Go (fail on any criterion)	Eligible proposals advance to Stage 2; ineligible proposals notified with justification
3. E&S Risk Categorization	PMU assigns preliminary risk category (B or C) to each eligible proposal	PMU (Environmental & Social Specialist)	E&S screening tool (Annex II, Appendix I); AF ESP 15 Principles	—	Risk category assigned (B or C); Category A proposals excluded
4. Technical Evaluation (Stage 2)	Independent External Evaluation Panel reviews, scores, ranks, and recommends proposals against the approved evaluation criteria	Independent External Evaluation Panel (min. 2 evaluators per proposal); IICA technical expert	Stage 2 scoring matrix (Annex V); minimum score 80/100; minimum Adaptation Value sub-score 40/50	Technical recommendation / non-recommendation (score threshold)	Consolidated evaluation report, ranked list of recommended proposals, and reserve list
5. Safeguards Documentation (pre-approval)	PMU supports selected partnerships in preparing required safeguards instruments	PMU (E&S Specialist; Gender Specialist); Science–Community Partnerships	ESMP (simplified for Cat. C; detailed for Cat. B); Gender Action Plan (GAP); Stakeholder Engagement Plan where applicable; identification of all national permits and licenses together with a plan for obtaining ⁴⁰ any that remain outstanding.	Conditional Go for final financing decision: the grant agreement may be signed once safeguards documentation (ESMP, GAP) has been substantially approved by the PMU; where minor gaps remain, conditional approval may be granted subject to completion of clearly defined corrective actions prior to first disbursement (see Annex II, Sections 7 and 10).)	Safeguards-cleared - Proposals ready for final financing decision, including conditionally cleared proposals with documented minor corrective actions.
6. Grant Agreement	Following the final financing decision jointly adopted by the AFCIA Programme Governance Committee and	AFCIA Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO for final financing decision;	Consolidated evaluation report; final financing decision; safeguards documentation approved by the PMU with any minor outstanding corrective actions documented as	Final financing decision and agreement signature. Conditional safeguards clearance is permitted only for minor gaps;	Final list of approved innovation projects; legally binding agreement signed

⁴⁰ Where a subproject requires national regulatory permits or licenses (e.g., environmental, water-use, phytosanitary), the relevant national/sectoral authority is solely responsible for issuing or confirming such permits. This regulatory confirmation is independent from, and does not form part of, the technical scoring conducted by the Evaluation Panel or the eligibility/E&S screening conducted by the PMU.

	FONTAGRO, IICA signs the applicable grant/co-execution agreement with each approved Science–Community Partnership	IICA for agreement signature; Science–Community Partnership	conditions precedent to first disbursement; agreed workplan and budget; baseline indicators; reporting schedule	No first disbursement may be authorized until the grant agreement has been signed, all safeguards instruments have been fully approved, all outstanding corrective actions and conditions have been completed, all required national permits or licenses have been secured and remain valid, and the PMU has signed the pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist.	
7. First Disbursement	IICA executes first disbursement / procurement action in accordance with fiduciary procedures	IICA (EE); PMU	Documented final financing decision; signed agreement or approved procurement/execution arrangement; fully approved ESMP and GAP and any other required safeguards instruments; completion of all outstanding corrective actions and conditions;; valid national permits ⁴¹ and licenses; initial baseline data collected; and pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist completed and signed by the PMU Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist.	—	First tranche of funds made available; no direct disbursement to partnerships
8. Implementation & Technical Support	Science–Community Partnerships implement approved workplan; PMU provides continuous technical assistance	Science–Community Partnerships; PMU (all specialists)	ESMP and GAP implementation; iterative test–learn–develop cycle; indicator tracking	—	Innovation activities carried out; periodic progress reports submitted
9. Monitoring, Reporting & Safeguards Oversight	PMU conducts continuous E&S monitoring; reviews progress reports; conducts spot checks; CAF validates reports	PMU; CAF (IE); Science–Community Partnerships	Standardized progress reports (ESMP/GAP implementation; gender-disaggregated indicators; GRM records); local relevance and social feedback; FONTAGRO digital monitoring platform	Escalation if non-compliance (disbursement suspension possible)	Annual progress reports to CAF and AF; adaptive management actions where needed
10. Subsequent Disbursements	Disbursements conditional on satisfactory progress and compliance	IICA (EE); PMU; CAF (IE)	Satisfactory progress report; continued ESMP/GAP compliance; no outstanding unresolved safeguards issues	Go / Hold (disbursement conditional on compliance)	Subsequent tranches released

⁴¹ Same considerations as in the preceding footnote.

11. Mid-term & Final Evaluation	Independent external evaluation of program and project results	Independent evaluators (contracted by CAF); PMU	Full program data; project evidence logs; beneficiary data; cost- effectiveness metrics	—	Evaluation reports submitted to AF
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Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC

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

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

This outcome aligns with Adaptation Fund Outcome 8: Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices tools and technologies.

80. Output 1.1 Regional call of proposals disseminated and Science–Community Partnerships supported for formulating innovative agricultural adaptation projects

Activity 1.1.1 Design and launch a regional call for proposals and source innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.

Subactivity 1.1.1 a. Design and launch of the regional call for proposals.

81. Design of the call for proposals: FONTAGRO with the support of the PMU will design the call for proposals including all sections and requirements included in the approved Programme. The PMU will further operationalize all the evaluation criteria and requirements in the FONTAGRO online platform ensuring the application form contains all the relevant fields to comply with all AF policies and requirements of this Programme. Section G includes information on the minimum application proposal package, which will be a reference for the design of the call.
82. The Terms of Reference of the AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO call for proposals will be prepared in alignment with FONTAGRO's principles, procedures, and standards for competitive calls, as established in the FONTAGRO Operations Manual. The call documents will define the eligibility requirements, submission procedures, evaluation methodology, scoring criteria, documentation requirements, and decision-making process applicable to the innovation projects to be financed under the Programme.
83. The independent External Evaluation Panel will be contracted by FONTAGRO's Technical Administrative Secretariat (STA) using Programme resources. The composition and profiles of the external evaluators will be defined and approved by the AFCIA Programme Governance Committee. The Panel will review, score, rank, and recommend eligible proposals using standardized evaluation forms and predefined criteria.
84. National priorities will inform the design of the call through explicit alignment requirements embedded in the Call for Proposals. Applicants will be required to demonstrate consistency with relevant national and sub-national adaptation frameworks, including National Adaptation Plans, NDC adaptation priorities, sectoral strategies, and other nationally endorsed climate resilience instruments applicable to the target territory. In addition, the thematic focus of the call will be informed by desk reviews and consultations on country adaptation priorities, ensuring that the call reflects nationally identified needs while remaining open to diverse and innovative solutions.
85. In addition, national adaptation priorities will be systematically reflected during the sourcing stage of the program. The Call for Proposals will explicitly require applicants to identify the relevant national and/or sub-national adaptation frameworks to which the proposed innovation contributes (e.g., National Adaptation Plans, NDC adaptation components, sectoral resilience strategies, disaster risk reduction frameworks, or other officially endorsed instruments applicable to the intervention territory).
86. The regional call will be launched through different communication channels and will remain open for approximately three months to receive proposals.

87. If, after finalizing the screening, evaluation and selection of the innovation projects, funding remains available, the Programme might launch a second call for proposals to allocate the remaining funds.

Subactivity 1.1.1. b. Identify and source innovation projects through science – community partnerships.

88. Call dissemination and communication strategy: A strategy will be developed to disseminate the call for proposals in order to reach public institutions that work directly with producer groups, such as agricultural extension and transfer agencies. Efforts will be made to actively involve these agencies and extension officers, so they participate specifically as promoters of the call. As they work closely with vulnerable producer groups, it is expected that these efforts will encourage communities' participation and connection with the project.
89. The strategy will also include dissemination through CAF's, FONTAGRO's and IICA's networks, as well as the communication channels and outreach networks of national governments and agricultural national innovation networks.
90. Additionally, gender considerations and inclusion aspects will be embedded in the strategy to ensure that vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities, also have access to the call information. Likewise, the key information for the call for proposals (guidelines, criteria, timeline, and application/inquiry channels) will be available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, and, where appropriate depending on the intervention territory, interpretation support will be provided if needed to ensure effective access for local populations.
91. Participating countries and designated authorities will be engaged during the sourcing stage through notification and dissemination of the call via national and regional channels, including coordination with Designated Authorities and relevant sectoral institutions ensuring visibility and coherence with country-driven priorities. Where appropriate, non-binding exchanges and consultations may be conducted to ensure that thematic focus areas reflect nationally articulated climate adaptation needs, while preserving the open and innovation-driven nature of the call.
92. Activity 1.1.2 Provide support and strengthen capacities for formulation of innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector. This activity aims to provide support to interested applicants and to strengthen their capacity to formulate adaptation innovation projects to increase resilience of the agricultural sector. To achieve this end, the PMU and FONTAGRO will organize:
93. - Webinars: these sessions will offer training on innovation criteria, climate change adaptation and climate risk, technical aspects of the call and project preparation, identification of appropriate indicators to monitor the innovation process, as well as to capture key results of innovations during the design stage; specific training on the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social safeguards; and training on gender for projects focusing on the participation of producers from vulnerable rural communities, particularly women and indigenous populations. The possibility of providing translation and/or interpretation services into different languages, such as English, Portuguese, Quechua, Guaraní, or sign languages, is included.
94. - Helpdesk: Throughout the period during which the call for proposals remains open, the PMU will establish a helpdesk to serve as a central point for receiving inquiries and providing support to applicants in response to their needs and queries.

Output 1.2: Innovative agricultural adaptation projects co-designed and financed.

95. This output will deliver accelerated innovative practices and technologies resulting from incubation or from other initiatives that already have evidence of feasibility from their pilot phase and meet the programs requirements.

Activity 1.2.1 Screening and selection of climate adaptation innovation projects

96. Evaluator recruitment, training, and scoring: A single independent external evaluation panel is recruited, hired by the project with experts selected in accordance with the call's Terms of Reference. These Terms of Reference constitute the primary instrument through which minimum eligibility requirements, expected adaptation outcomes, and implementation conditions are clearly communicated to applicants. The independent external evaluation panel assesses the full subproject package using the approved evaluation matrix, including compliance with national standards and safeguards requirements. This panel will be trained regionally to ensure a unified application of the common evaluation matrix and digital scoring system. To further strengthen evaluation, at least 2 different members of the panel will review each project proposal and assess it individually to align scoring criteria. Screening and evaluation process: The programme will apply a structured, two-stage screening and evaluation framework to ensure that proposals selected under the Call for Proposals deliver concrete adaptation actions and measurable climate resilience outcomes. An indicative evaluation matrix, including eligibility criteria, scoring categories, weights, and minimum thresholds, is provided in Annex V (Screening and Evaluation Framework for Small Grant Proposals).
97. **First stage: Eligibility & Adaptation Screening (pass/fail):** all proposals will be subject to mandatory pass/fail eligibility and adaptation screening to verify compliance with minimum requirements. To pass screening, proposals must demonstrate: a clearly articulated climate risk and vulnerability context; capacities and activities targeting research, transfer/training, and a direct adaptation action, defined as field-based piloting or demonstration under real conditions;

identifiable direct beneficiaries; compliance with environmental and social (E&S) screening requirements; alignment with national and/or subnational priorities; and a credible adaptation objective linking the proposed innovation to measurable reductions in climate vulnerability or strengthened adaptive capacity (see Table 5). Only proposals meeting all minimum adaptation requirements will advance to technical evaluation. Further clarification of the initial criteria can be found in Annex V. These criteria will be explicitly defined and further refined in the call Terms of Reference to be prepared under Activity 1.1.1, drawing on the Programme operational guidelines, and the applicable Adaptation Fund policies.

98. In contexts where relevant national or subnational adaptation instruments are absent, outdated, under preparation, or not publicly accessible, applicants may demonstrate alignment through alternative credible and officially recognized sources (e.g., sectoral strategies, municipal or subnational development or climate plans, UNFCCC communications, disaster risk reduction frameworks, endorsed government programmes, or other policy frameworks). The application form will include a dedicated section requiring applicants to specify the strategies addressed and provide web links or attach supporting documentation where necessary. Proposals unable to substantiate alignment through verifiable evidence will not pass the eligibility screening stage. The screening process will prioritize the functional relevance of the innovation to the territory's resilience needs over the formal status of a specific national instrument..

Table 5. Stage 1 – Eligibility & Adaptation Screening criteria

Criterion	Pass / Fail Condition
Legal eligibility of participants	Fail if eligibility conditions are not met. Applicant institutions are legally constituted and have valid legal personality to enter into agreements or establish operational arrangements, as applicable.
Completeness	The full application package has been submitted through the FONTAGRO platform, including all required forms and annexes
Climate risk and vulnerability	Fail if climate risk is generic, unclear, or not context-specific
Adaptation objective	Fail if objective is mitigation-focused, productivity-only, or general innovation with no linkage of proposed innovation to reductions in climate vulnerability or strengthened adaptive capacity
Partnership eligibility	The proposed Science–Community Partnership meets the institutional and partnership requirements established in the call
Alignment with national/subnational strategies and plans	Fail if it does not align with any adaptation or sectoral national or subnational strategy or plan.
Capacities and concrete adaptation action	Fail if there is no evidence of the three types of activities and capacities within the partnership Fail if research-only or enabling activities-only
Direct beneficiaries	Fail if beneficiaries are indirect or undefined
E&S screening	Fail if the E&S screening classifies the project as category risk A Fail if the proposed intervention is among the activities of the Exclusion List

99. **Second stage: Technical Evaluation and Scoring:** proposals will be assessed using the evaluation matrix presented in Annex V, in which adaptation relevance and expected climate resilience outcomes are treated as the core priority and receive the highest weighting. Complementary criteria include innovation and delivery, technological readiness, scalability, feasibility, economic, environmental, social and gender benefits, institutional capacity, complementarity, cost-effectiveness, among other to strengthen the likelihood of delivering effective, sustainable, and scalable adaptation outcomes. The Adaptation Value Core section accounts for 50 points out of the total score (100) and requires a minimum of 40 points as the adaptation threshold (see Table 6).
100. During the screening stage, proposals will be required to explicitly reference the national priorities they address, and this alignment will form part of the eligibility and adaptation screening criteria applied by the PMU at Stage 1 (Step 2 of Table 4), consistent with Annex V. Only alignment claims that pass Stage 1 will be considered by the Independent External Evaluation Panel during Stage 2 technical scoring.. National authorities will not participate in proposal scoring or selection decisions, thereby preserving the independence, objectivity, and technical integrity of the evaluation process, while ensuring strong country.
101. As established in the Eligibility and Adaptation Screening stage, alignment with national or subnational adaptation priorities is assessed based on the availability of formal instruments or, where these are absent or outdated, through

alternative credible and officially recognized sources. Proposals that successfully meet this requirement at screening proceed to the Technical Evaluation and Scoring stage, where assessment focuses on the quality, feasibility, and scalability of the proposed innovation. This ensures a clear separation between eligibility screening and technical evaluation, maintaining consistency in the assessment of adaptation relevance across the selection process. These criteria will be further detailed in the Terms of Reference of the call to be prepared under Activity 1.1.1, in line with Programme operational guidelines and applicable Adaptation Fund policies

Table 6. Stage 2 – Initial Technical Evaluation & Scoring Matrix (100 points)

Criterion	What is assessed	Max. Weight
Core Priority: Adaptation Value (50 points)		
Background and climate justification	Quality and relevance of contextual analysis supporting the adaptation need	5
Objective clarity	Clarity and coherence of the climate adaptation objective	5
Adaptation relevance & climate resilience outcomes (Impact potential)	Degree to which the intervention directly reduces climate vulnerability or strengthens adaptive capacity, including impact potential [aligned with results framework targets: # adaptation beneficiaries, % female, youth and indigenous population and/or hectares]	15
Quality of adaptation pathway (Theory of Change)	Logical, evidence-based linkage between climate risk, intervention, and outcomes. Clear causal logic linking activities → outputs → to a credible and feasible achievement of the adaptation outcomes	10
Beneficiary relevance & inclusion	Direct participation of the prioritized groups: women, youth and indigenous peoples. Prioritization of female leadership, and substantive participation of women in technical and community roles.	5
Measurable results & indicators	Inclusion of quantitative indicators aligned with the programme Logical framework/ list of indicators attached to the call for proposals and relevance of the selection to measure the project's adaptation objective. Projects will be required to report sex-, age-, and ethnicity-disaggregated data.	5
Alignment of the project objective with national and subnational strategies and plans	Coherent explanation and justification of alignment with relevant adaptation, gender equity and social inclusion and sectoral national/subnational strategies, plans, priorities, and policies	5
Subtotal		50
Complementary Innovation & Delivery Criteria (40 points)		
Technological readiness (TRL)	Appropriateness of TRL for incubation or acceleration pathway	10
Innovation & risk-taking	Novel or adaptive application aligned with AFCIA objectives	5
Feasibility & implementation capacity	Technical, institutional, and operational feasibility within 24 months	5
Sustainability, scalability & replication potential	Potential to scale or replicate results beyond pilot stage, including: (i) a basic technical maintenance or O&M arrangement appropriate to the innovation type; (ii) identification of at least one institution with a defined hosting or championing role; and (iii) a credible pathway for scaling, replication, or integration into existing programmes.	5
Economic, social, environmental and gender benefits	Positive benefits without compromising adaptation objectives	10
Project cost-effectiveness	Degree to which proposed solutions generate significant adaptation and resilience results relative to investment costs, using proportionate unit-cost indicators such as cost per beneficiary reached, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management, and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy, as relevant to the innovation type. The increase in the adaptive capacity of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age, and Indigenous status) with respect to climate impacts in the agricultural sector will also be measured.	5
Subtotal		40
Institutional Capabilities (10 points)		

Institutional and technical team capacity & alignment	Experience, governance, and alignment with project objectives	5
Capacity Building, training strategy	Quality and feasibility of the capacity-building plan, including target groups, delivery approach, and contribution to adoption, gender equity and social inclusion and sustainability.	2,5
Duplication & Complementarity	Ensure scope, geography, beneficiaries, and innovation stage do not duplicate efforts; assess complementarity with existing initiatives	2,5
Subtotal		10
Total Score: 100 points		100

102. **Following selection, USP-specific safeguards instruments**—including Environmental and Social Management Plans and Gender Action Plans—**are progressively developed** during incubation and acceleration, ensuring compliance, proportionality, and scalability of inclusive and environmentally sound adaptation outcomes.

Activity 1.2.2 Incubate and accelerate Science-Community partnership projects for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.

103. This activity involves providing financing for incubating and/or accelerating at least 20 climate adaptation projects developed by Science-Community Partnerships, which will receive small grants of up to USD 250,000 each. The grant ceiling of up to USD 250,000 applies to all selected projects, regardless of whether they enter the incubation or acceleration phase. Applicants in both pathways may request funding up to this ceiling, with final approved amounts determined on a case-by-case basis based on technical readiness, scope of activities, cost-effectiveness, and capacity to generate measurable climate resilience outcomes.
104. To strengthen financial accountability and ensure the appropriate use of resources, all approved projects are required to submit a detailed Procurement Plan prior to project initiation. This plan specifies eligible expenditure categories, budget allocations, procurement procedures, and maximum funding thresholds by category. The Procurement Plan serves as a key control mechanism to prevent the diversion of funds toward non-approved purposes, such as infrastructure improvements or other expenditures outside the project's approved scope. The Programme does not establish fixed budget allocations by innovation stage; rather, the budget structure responds to the technical and operational needs of each individual project, regardless of whether it enters the incubation or acceleration pathway. Project implementation is further supported through continuous technical and financial monitoring, periodic reporting, and external audits when required.
105. Depending on the maturity of each proposal and the extent to which it meets the requirements and criteria established for the call (Section G), as assessed by the Evaluation Panel, some projects may enter incubation processes, while the remaining projects will proceed directly to the acceleration process.
106. The activity will be supported by a broad dissemination campaign to promote access and equity among diverse groups (Subactivity 1.1.1.b), and will include capacity-building sessions (Activity 1.1.2) with webinars, consultations, and awareness-raising to ensure the informed participation of all stakeholders (both researchers and producers) and to strengthen the quality of submitted proposals, including topics such as environmental and social safeguards, gender aspects and compliance with the requirements of the call for proposals. Concurrently, the Programme will provide centralized technical assistance through Component 2 to all selected projects at no additional cost to the project teams. This technical assistance will operate as a distinct programme-level resource, separate from individual project grant financing, and will be tailored to the maturity stage and implementation needs of each project. It will also support partnerships in applying the programme's gender-responsive monitoring requirements, including the collection of disaggregated data and the tracking of outcome-level indicators related to women's leadership, technical engagement in innovation processes, and access to innovation-related resources and opportunities.
107. Selected projects will receive differentiated support according to their technological readiness levels (TRL): incubation for early-stage initiatives (TRL 4) and acceleration for initiatives in advanced phases (TRL 5–8). That is, in the acceleration phase, projects at TRL 5 to TRL 8 maturity levels will be supported (see Table 7). The objective is to strengthen their design, advance their technological maturity, reinforce the solution, and ensure conditions for effective and scalable implementation. The degree of advancement of the innovation proposed by each project or prototype will be a key criterion for its evaluation and potential approval in the accelerator.
108. Proposals presenting a minimum prototype maturity level of TRL 4 will be supported for incubation and subsequently progress toward acceleration. This combination of stages will allow the development of a functional prototype to be completed and its practical validation through small-scale pilot testing of technologies or practices aimed at climate change adaptation, thereby reaching a maturity level equivalent to TRL 5.

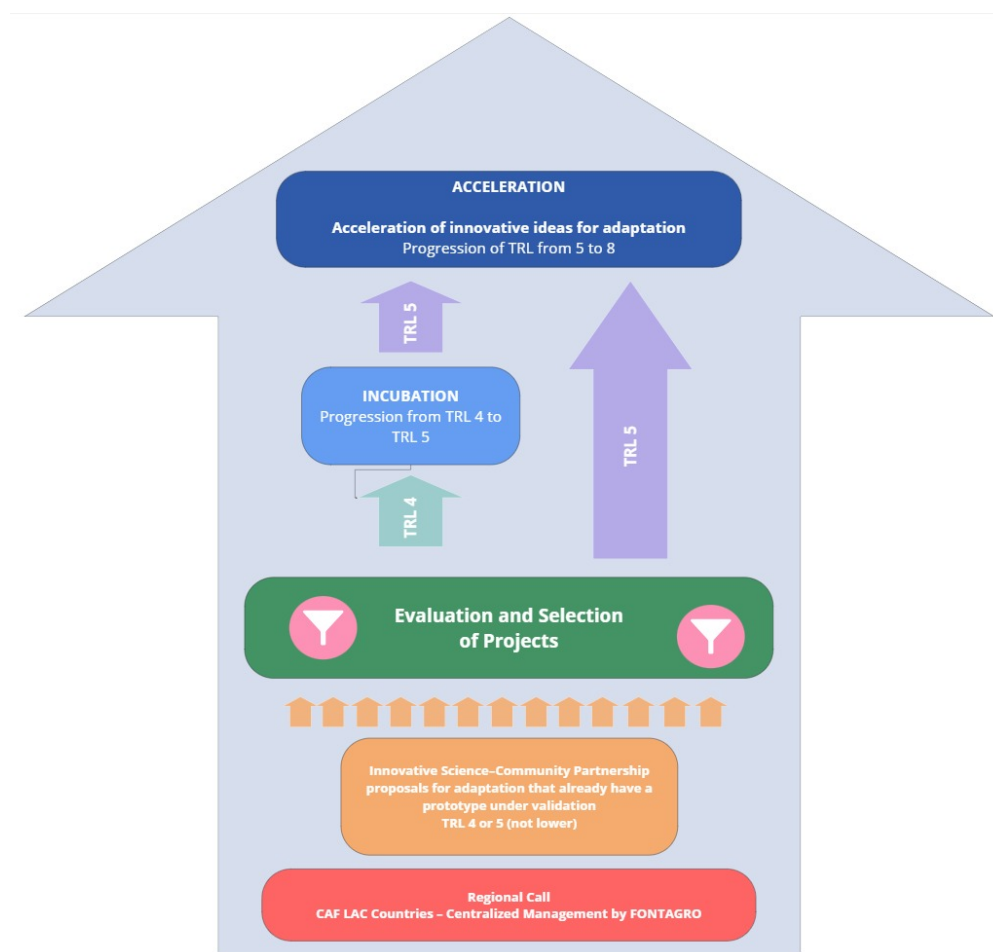
109. During incubation and acceleration, grantees will be required to integrate structured beneficiary feedback mechanisms—such as user testing, participatory validation workshops, and adoption assessments—into their implementation plans. Advancement to higher TRLs and transition from incubation to acceleration will be contingent upon demonstrated evidence of usability, acceptance, and relevance to end users, not solely on technical performance. This adaptive management approach ensures that innovation maturity is directly linked to social uptake and real-world applicability, thereby reinforcing locally led, inclusive, and scalable adaptation outcomes in line with the Adaptation Fund’s innovation and gender mandates.
110. To guarantee the effective participation of communities and beneficiaries, the PMU will monitor local relevance through continuous monitoring, periodic progress reports (in accordance with the FONTAGRO Operations Manual), field visits, or community interviews when necessary. In these reports, the science-community partnerships will demonstrate the joint activities carried out and how beneficiary feedback is incorporated into the project's development. This reporting will also capture sex-, age-, and ethnicity-disaggregated information and qualitative evidence on women’s participation in testing and validation processes, women’s leadership and decision-making roles within the partnership, and women’s access to innovation-related resources and opportunities, in line with the Gender Action Plan. This operational mechanism serves as the pivot for decision-making defining the transition between the incubation (TRL 4) and acceleration (TRL 5-8) stages, guiding the course of each project through three specific pathways: first, **progression** toward acceleration will be triggered when monitoring, reports, and/or field verifications demonstrate high usability and community approval, justifying the allocation of funds for scaling; second, **adjustment** will be mandatory when local feedback identifies technical, cultural, or gender barriers, requiring the project to undergo an **adjustment cycle** to incorporate user demands before re-evaluating its advancement; and third, **discontinuation** will be executed when monitoring reveals structural adoption barriers or an insurmountable lack of social relevance, in which case the PMU will request the suspension of funding for the subproject and will systematize the results as lessons learned for the program’s knowledge base. The evidence generated through this mechanism will also support programme-level analysis of how women’s participation, leadership, and access to innovation-related resources contribute to the usability, uptake, and adaptation relevance of supported innovations.

Table 7. Characteristics of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

Technology Readiness Level (TRL)	Characteristics
TRL 1 – Basic principles observed	- The scientific basis of the technology is identified. - No prototype exists; only observation, theory, or hypothesis.
TRL 2 – Technology concept formulated	- A concept of application based on the observed principles is defined. - No testing has been conducted yet; only conceptual models or preliminary sketches.
TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept	- Initial experiments are conducted to validate feasibility. - A very basic laboratory prototype (“bench prototype”) may exist.
TRL 4 – Laboratory Validation	- A functional prototype is built and validated under controlled conditions. - The performance of key components is verified.
TRL 5 – Validation in Relevant Environment	- The prototype is tested under conditions similar to real-world settings (“relevant environment”). - Multiple components are integrated, and their interaction is tested.
TRL 6 – Demonstration in Relevant Environment	- An almost fully functional prototype is tested in an environment close to real conditions - Robust evidence of technical performance is required.
TRL 7 – Demonstration in Operational Environment	- A pilot demonstration is conducted under real operational conditions. - The technology operates in the real world with actual users.
TRL 8 – Complete and Certified System	- The technology is complete, tested, and certified for operation. - Regulatory requirements, certifications, or standards have been met.
TRL 9 – Technology Proven in the Market	- The technology is already commercially deployed - Sales, real metrics, and customer feedback exists.

111. Figure 5 illustrates the trajectory of innovative ideas for adaptation.

Figure 5. Trajectory of Innovative Ideas under Component 1, AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO



112. Implementation period: The incubation period plus the acceleration period, or just the acceleration, depending on the maturity level of the initiative, will have a maximum duration of 24 months in total.
113. Applying best innovation practices: the Programme will work from the outset on incubation and acceleration based on prototypes, rather than on ideas or business plans.
114. Projects will be selected based on the criteria described in Activity 1.2.1
115. Gender and inclusion: The activity will apply inclusive criteria to promote women's technical and community leadership within Science-Community partnerships, in line with the measures set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring targeted support throughout the incubation, and acceleration stages.

Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects.

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

116. Through this outcome, it is expected to achieve enabling conditions in terms of the capacities of the actors involved in the innovation process. This outcome seeks to generate improvements in the practical capacities of institutional and community actors on issues related to anticipated and current climate impacts, innovative solutions for agricultural adaptation, cross-cutting issues such as gender, environmental and social considerations, cost-effectiveness, learning cycles, testing and validation, as well as the identification of indicators for monitoring and generating relevant evidence on innovations for climate adaptation. It is anticipated that through multi-actor training and exchange spaces, actors will be able to increase their knowledge and improve their practices, thereby strengthening their capacities. The results chain assumptions underpinning the ToC include that stakeholders participate in the capacity-building sessions, increase their knowledge, and apply this knowledge to improve their innovation practices and projects. This outcome aligns with Outcome

3 of the Adaptation Fund: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level.

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

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

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

118. Throughout project implementation, the PMU will provide continuous and tailored technical assistance to Science-Community Partnerships to strengthen capacities in climate change adaptation, innovation processes, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and the management of environmental, social, and gender-related risks. Technical support will include refinement and guidance on indicators and results-based monitoring, compliance with ESMP requirements, and the integration of gender considerations into innovation design and implementation.

119. Technical assistance will be delivered through a combination of proactive support and an on-demand helpdesk mechanism, serving as a centralized entry point for inquiries and technical requests. The PMU will facilitate access to innovation hub knowledge and expertise from key scientific and technical experts, enabling partnerships to address implementation challenges, refine innovation approaches, and ensure compliance with Adaptation Fund policies. This integrated support mechanism will enable timely problem-solving, adaptive management, and continuous learning throughout the innovation cycle.

Activity 2.1.2 Open and hybrid innovation sessions to guarantee inclusiveness and participation of vulnerable communities

120. During project implementation, FONTAGRO and the PMU will organize open innovation sessions designed to ensure the meaningful inclusion and participation of vulnerable communities in the innovation process. These sessions will be held primarily in person at the local level, using formats and facilitation approaches adapted to local contexts to enable effective engagement of community members, including women, smallholder producers, and other vulnerable groups. Where relevant, the sessions will also be complemented by virtual participation to allow the engagement of external actors.

121. The sessions will bring together Science-Community Partnerships with a broader set of actors from the innovation ecosystem, including local and national government entities, researchers from other institutions and countries, FONTAGRO specialists, producers associations, NGOs, and associations working on similar challenges. This inclusive and participatory space will enable communities to present their experience, receive feedback, exchange knowledge and jointly reflect on the technical, social and institutional elements necessary to strengthen and promote climate adaptation innovations. One open and hybrid innovation session per project will be held at the end of the first year of project implementation.

122. Operational link with decision-making: To ensure the effective participation of communities and beneficiaries, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will provide permanent monitoring and supervise local relevance through progress reports (in accordance with the FONTAGRO Operations Manual), field visits, or community interviews when necessary. In these reports, in a dedicated social participation section, the science-community partnerships will demonstrate the joint activities carried out and how beneficiary feedback is incorporated into the project's development. This operational mechanism ensures that community input guides decision-making throughout the entire innovation cycle, defining the transition between the incubation and acceleration phases through three possible pathways: whether the subproject moves forward (progression), is readjusted due to territorial barriers (adaptation), or is suspended due to a lack of real traction (discontinuation). The evidence of the application of this mechanism will be duly documented and formally presented along with the annual technical report.

123. Gender and inclusion: The activity will apply inclusive criteria to promote women's technical and community leadership within Science-Community partnerships, in line with the measures set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring targeted support throughout the application, incubation, and acceleration stages.

Activity 2.1.3: Strengthen capacities for pitching to funders and organize a Science-Community Partnership Marketplace

124. Capacity-building efforts under this activity will focus on strengthening the ability of Science-Community Partnerships to effectively present their innovation projects to potential funders and to apply to identified funding opportunities that could

support the scaling or replication of successful adaptation solutions. Support will include guidance on articulating innovation value, results, and scaling pathways in line with funder requirements.

125. A Science–Community Partnership Marketplace will be organized, bringing together selected projects with potential funders and strategic partners through a virtual format. The marketplace will provide a structured space for partnerships to showcase results, exchange knowledge, and explore opportunities for future phases, replication, or scale-up.
126. The FONTAGRO digital platform will support this process by enabling projects to systematically compile their results and generate standardized pitching formats highlighting key elements of their innovation projects, including sustainability and scaling plans. These materials will serve as a foundation for targeted capacity strengthening and proposal development, enabling partnerships to refine their pitches and engage more effectively with potential funders and partners.

Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation

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

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

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

129. This output will deliver knowledge products, identify successful cases, improve the monitoring and evaluation of agricultural innovation processes and results, and provide various formats for knowledge dissemination, such as virtual exchange spaces, in-situ workshops, and special formats for different audiences. The management and dissemination of knowledge is expected to involve a range of actors: decision-makers from local and national governments, research and development institutions, incubators and innovation agencies, local producer organizations, NGOs, producer cooperatives, technical experts, designated authorities (NDAs), and other institutions that develop adaptation projects—both multilateral and regional or national (NIEs)—and may be interested in scaling innovative solutions.
130. Additionally, it is expected that the monitoring and evaluation of the projects will generate adaptive management and contribute to systematizing key lessons from both the Programmes innovation processes and the adaptation solutions. M&E will be a cross-cutting element throughout all stages of the innovative idea development process.
131. The component is structured as a single output with two complementary activities, ranging from support for monitoring the Adaptation Fund requirements to the systematization of lessons learned and their strategic communication and dissemination.

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

132. This activity aims to generate information through the monitoring of projects as required by the Adaptation Fund and to identify and document valuable experiences for their lessons. The activities will include the systematization of experiences and lessons learned from the climate change innovation projects supported by the programme.
133. Support to projects for proper indicator tracking, monitoring and evaluation includes: i) conducting baseline data collection using the call's form and ensuring its compilation; ii) recording evidence on the effectiveness of innovative adaptation actions (according to Programme criteria) as well as on the innovation process and stakeholder consultations; and iii) supervising the use of funds and the preparation of progress reports, including key indicators.
134. Additionally, a demand study of the productive sector will be carried out, including a systematic survey of the needs of producers in the region regarding climate change adaptation. This study will generate solid evidence on the sector's specific gaps and priorities, providing a strategic input to guide decisions on scaling and replicating innovative solutions.
135. Through the activities of 3.1.2, these lessons will be disseminated, and strategies will be developed to promote projects for scaling and replication.

136. The Programme will also establish a structured portfolio-level learning mechanism to ensure that lessons from individual Science–Community Partnerships are systematically aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level learning. Each funded project will be required to maintain a simple evidence and learning log, using a harmonized template provided by the PMU. This log will document implementation conditions, adaptation results, user feedback, gender and inclusion outcomes, cost and unit-cost information, barriers encountered, enabling factors, adjustments made through the test–learn–develop cycle, and lessons relevant for replication or scaling.
137. The PMU will periodically review these project-level evidence logs and monitoring data to identify patterns across countries, innovation types, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, and implementation models. This review will support the identification of common success factors, recurrent bottlenecks, contextual conditions for adoption, and practical recommendations for scaling adaptation innovations across the region. The findings will feed into portfolio-level synthesis products, progress reports, knowledge products, policy dialogues, and scaling activities under Activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.
138. Gender and inclusion: The activity will apply inclusive criteria to promote women’s technical and community leadership within Science–Community partnerships, in line with the measures set out in the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring targeted support throughout the application, incubation, and acceleration stages.

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

Subactivity 3.1.2.a. Strengthen the FONTAGRO platform for tracking and communication.

139. Customization of the FONTAGRO platform and Dashboard⁴²: The FONTAGRO platform and dashboard will be customized to support systematic tracking, aggregation of the results at the portfolio level, and communication of Programme results in line with Adaptation Fund requirements. Customization will include the integration of indicators related to innovation processes, gender equality, and environmental and social performance, enabling consistent monitoring across all supported projects. The enhanced platform will support portfolio-level analysis by aggregating project results, facilitating the identification of trends, lessons learned, and successful adaptation approaches. In addition, the platform will enable clear visualization and dissemination of evidence on results and impacts, providing a robust basis for knowledge sharing, learning, and the scaling and replication of innovations with demonstrated effectiveness.
140. The enhanced FONTAGRO platform and dashboard will also support the Programme’s portfolio-level learning mechanism by enabling the systematic aggregation, tagging, and visualization of project-level evidence. Innovations and knowledge products may be categorized by country, agroecological context, sector, innovation type, target beneficiary group, gender and inclusion focus, adaptation outcome, cost-effectiveness information, and scaling potential. This functionality will facilitate cross-project analysis, identification of emerging lessons, and preparation of audience-specific knowledge products and dashboards for communities, policymakers, investors, development partners, and regional or global knowledge platforms.

Subactivity 3.1.2.b. Promote the dissemination of results.

141. This activity aims to showcase the achievements, lessons learned, and evidence generated through Components 1 and 2 using communication strategies targeted at diverse audiences. Accessible materials will be developed—including translations into indigenous languages where appropriate—to promote the adoption of innovative practices by producers, institutions, and other sector actors. To operationalize this objective, the activity will focus on the systematic production, organization, and dissemination of knowledge and evidence generated by the innovative projects supported under the Programme. Communication and knowledge products will be tailored to different audiences within the innovation ecosystem, ensuring that lessons learned, and evidence inform practice, decision-making, and policy dialogue.
142. A dedicated section on the FONTAGRO website will be accessible, where technical documents, studies, webinars, events, and other awareness-raising and training resources generated under the Programme will be made available.
143. Dissemination will follow a differentiated knowledge packaging approach tailored to the needs, capacities, and decision-making roles of distinct target audiences. Knowledge products will not be developed as generic outputs, but will be translated into audience-specific formats, channels, and messages to maximize uptake, replication, and scaling.
144. For local communities, producer organizations, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, products will focus on practical and accessible materials such as guides, factsheets, selected visual or audiovisual materials, local-language summaries where appropriate, demonstration materials, and peer-learning or field/hybrid exchange spaces.

145. For policymakers and public institutions, the Programme will prepare policy briefs, evidence notes, synthesis reports, and recommendations highlighting adaptation effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, enabling conditions, and opportunities for integration into public programmes and climate finance pipelines.
146. For investors, financial institutions, development partners, and scaling partners, products may include investment briefs, pitch decks, scaling profiles, cost-effectiveness notes, and curated solution portfolios linked to the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace.
147. For regional and global platforms, including FONTAGRO, CAF, IICA, AFCIA and other adaptation innovation networks, the Programme will develop standardized case studies, solution briefs, good-practice compilations, thematic learning notes, regional synthesis reports, and an online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions.
148. Uptake will be monitored through platform analytics, event participation, stakeholder feedback, documented use of knowledge products, and evidence of replication or piloting in new contexts.
149. **Dissemination of results:** Dissemination activities will translate project-level results into accessible and actionable knowledge products through a combination of virtual, hybrid, and in-person formats, including:
150. **Virtual or hybrid workshops**, knowledge-sharing spaces among stakeholders and other interested parties who are part of the innovation ecosystem.
151. Development of **technical publications** and knowledge products both digital and physical when appropriate; documents on success stories (audiovisual, for example) in the form of case studies, solutions briefs, policy briefs or cost-effectiveness notes; and compilations of good practices that help expand the evidence base on effective climate innovation showcasing what works, why, why and at what cost.
152. Creation of an online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions.
153. Within the framework of the FONTAGRO Annual Meeting, dialogue tables will be organized with decision-makers from LAC to present the conclusions and policy recommendations based on the AFCIA-CAF/FONTAGRO process.
154. To further operationalize cross-country collaboration, the Programme will structure regional learning and exchange through mechanisms already embedded in Components 2 and 3. The FONTAGRO platform will serve as the regional knowledge hub for sharing project results, evidence, learning products, and the online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions. This will be complemented by facilitated virtual and hybrid exchange sessions, regional knowledge-sharing workshops, open innovation sessions, and peer-learning spaces among Science–Community Partnerships working on similar agroecological conditions, value chains, climate risks, or innovation types.
155. These mechanisms will support cross-country learning, exchange, and joint problem-solving throughout implementation. Science–Community Partnerships will be encouraged to share challenges, implementation adjustments, user feedback, safeguards and gender lessons, cost-effectiveness findings, and scaling opportunities. The PMU, with support from CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO, will facilitate these exchanges through the activities already planned under Activities 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3, and will use the findings to inform programme-level learning products, policy briefs, good-practice compilations, and scaling-oriented knowledge products.
156. In addition, the regional call for proposals and the standardized monitoring and reporting system will promote coherence across countries by applying common eligibility criteria, evidence requirements, innovation indicators, and learning templates. This will allow lessons generated in one country or context to be compared, adapted, and shared with other Science–Community Partnerships, national institutions, and regional platforms, thereby strengthening the Programme's contribution to regional adaptation innovation ecosystems.
157. NDAS and NIE participationiNDAs and other organizations involved in the formulation of climate projects, such as multilateral, regional, or national implementing entities (NIEs), will also be invited to participate in the dissemination and learning activities to ensure the results of the process and projects are shared with them as well, strengthen their capacities in innovation processes, and explore interest in replicating and/or scaling up the results in new projects.iiFurthermore, dedicated sessions to engage national entities will be organized. The PMU will promote an annual virtual exchange with NIEs, Designated Authorities, and other relevant national institutions from the countries where Programme-supported projects are being implemented. This exchange will provide a structured space to present emerging results, validated innovations, lessons learned, and scaling potential, and to discuss possible national applications, institutional support, replication opportunities, or linkages with existing or future adaptation programmes and climate finance pipelines to promote uptake and explore financing opportunities for innovations.iParticipation of NIEs will be voluntary and will not constitute a requirement for project implementation, approval, or co-financing. Rather, the annual exchange will serve as a practical mechanism to connect evidence generated by Science–Community Partnerships with national institutions that may be interested in supporting, replicating, scaling, or integrating successful innovations into national adaptation planning, future project design, or other financing opportunities.

Activity 3.1.3 Provide incentives for successful cases with scaling up potential.

Sub-activity 3.1.3.a Organize a competition to identify scaling up potential.

158. Successful cases will be identified through a competitive process among the funded projects following the established FONTAGRO contest methodology. This competition will assess projects based on predefined, evidence-based criteria, including demonstrated results, scalability potential, sustainability, and relevance for replication across different contexts. The process will build on the capacity strengthening provided under Activity 2.1.3, including support for pitching, proposal development, and participation in the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace, ensuring that projects are well positioned to articulate their results and scaling pathways. The call will enable the selection of innovations with the capacity to advance to higher levels of technological maturity (TRL9). Winning projects will receive recognition and an award so support their expansion through replication, scaling, or integration into broader programmes and policies.
159. Sub-activity 3.1.3.b Promotion of Scaling and Replication of Successful Cases:
160. Based on the successful cases, dedicated publications will be produced to disseminate these experiences aiming specifically at promoting scaling up and replication. Policy briefs will also be developed targeting decision-makers synthesizing evidence, lessons learned, and key success factors to inform scaling and replication efforts.
161. In parallel, the Project will identify relevant funding sources, potential investors, and calls for proposals that could support the scaling or replication of successful experiences.
162. Together these outputs will serve as practical tools to inform policy formulation, expansion of successful adaptation solutions, and contribute to the continuous capacity strengthening of key stakeholders involved in climate innovation.
163. Gender and inclusion: Communication actions will highlight innovations led or co-developed by women and other prioritized groups and will promote learning on inclusion and the mainstreaming of a gender approach in climate adaptation actions, in line with the Gender Action Plan (GAP), to foster replicability and recognition of inclusive practices across the region.

B. Contribution to the expected results under the innovation pillar

Describe how the project /programme would contribute meaningfully to the Expected Results under the Innovation Pillar (i.e. (i) New innovations and risk-taking⁴³ encouraged and accelerated; (ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up; (iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation and (iv) Evidence base generated and shared)

164. The Programme contributes to the 4 expected outcomes within the framework of the innovation pillar:
165. (i) New innovations and risk-taking encouraged and accelerated: The Programme promotes and accelerates the development of climate innovations by funding, coordinating, and supporting collaborative processes among research institutions, technical assistance providers, and community-based producer organizations, enabling solutions at early stages of technological maturity (TRL 4) to advance toward testing and development phases through the iterative test–learn–develop cycle. During the call phase, dissemination and outreach activities will be conducted, and support spaces such as webinars and technical assistance will be offered to foster the dynamic and creative co-creation of proposals. During implementation, the accelerator under Component 1 explicitly promotes experimentation and controlled risk-taking, creating a safe environment for communities and institutions to test new practices, technologies, and adaptation tools without fear of failure, and generating the necessary conditions to advance toward more robust solutions with greater potential impact. This is included as part of the support provided under Component 2 with technical assistance during the design phase, which explicitly contributes to developing monitoring processes, indicators, and cycles for systematizing and discussing lessons learned as part of the proposals submitted by the Partnerships. Additionally, for selected Partnerships, specific indicators will be established to capture not only innovation achievements but also the experimentation and learning process cycle. Component 2 also includes open and hybrid innovation sessions for all Partnerships to foster reflection that enables learning and internal improvement, while incorporating external contributions from specialists, communities, and relevant actors within the innovation ecosystem.
166. The proposed Programme is closely aligned with the innovation vision adopted by the Adaptation Fund Board (document AFB/B.36/8) and with the objectives and expected outcomes of the Adaptation Fund's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS-II 2023-2027). Its design responds to the need to promote innovative, inclusive, and scalable solutions that strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable rural producers in sectors strategic for food security and sustainable development in the region.
167. In line with this vision, the programme adopts a definition of innovation consistent with that of the Adaptation Fund, understood as the creation, testing, implementation, or dissemination of new, adapted, or improved climate adaptation solutions, developed contextually and with the inclusion of the communities most vulnerable to climate change, in order to strengthen their resilience. This conception, like the proposed programme, broadens the scope of innovation beyond the

⁴³ For some clarifications on the concept of risk, please see [innovation project design elements and further clarification on the concept of risk](#).

technological domain, also integrating institutional and social approaches with strong territorial roots and an inclusive focus. Through the science–community partnership methodology, the programme extends the concept of innovation to the ways of accessing funding, local engagement, and climate adaptation based on the co-creation of evidence.

168. (ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up: The Programme promotes the replication and scaling of successful innovations through Component 3, which focuses on the systematization, documentation, and dissemination of lessons learned, as well as the active promotion of scaling through policy briefs, dialogue tables with decision-makers, and the strategic identification and connection of successful cases with potential funders, public programmes, or new calls for proposals. Solutions that demonstrate strong performance in the pilot phases are made visible, contextualized, and communicated to key actors, creating favourable conditions for territorial expansion, institutional adoption, and replicability across different agricultural systems in the region.
169. (iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation: The Programme significantly strengthens access and capacities for the design and implementation of innovations through Component 2, which offers structured training, technical support, and skills development for community and institutional actors—not only on innovation processes and discussions of the progress of the different Partnerships, but also by strengthening capacities on cross-cutting issues such as environmental, social, and gender aspects, cost-effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation of innovative solutions. These processes enable producers, extension agents, technical teams, and public actors to learn how to co-design, adapt, pilot, and validate climate adaptation solutions while incorporating these approaches, and encourage them to reflect on and systematize the process rather than just the final results. Science–community partnerships are expected to foster collaboration between scientific institutions and local communities—particularly producers vulnerable to climate change—with the goal of co-creating or co-designing adaptive, culturally relevant, and evidence-based solutions. The community ensures relevance, and science ensures evidence. This approach seeks to move beyond traditional one-way knowledge generation models by integrating technical and traditional knowledge into a participatory process that strengthens territorial resilience, which will be promoted and facilitated by the Programme.
170. (iv) Evidence base generated and shared: Through Component 3, the Programme generates and shares a robust evidence base on the processes, outcomes, and lessons learned from the supported innovations. This includes systematizing the innovation cycle, monitoring the performance of solutions under real-world conditions, producing studies and evidence syntheses, and strategically disseminating them through publications, knowledge platforms, policy briefs, and multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces to ensure that the evidence reaches diverse audiences. The evidence generated not only informs policy and investment decisions but also feeds into the design of future innovations and will be used to identify and facilitate the replication and scaling of the most promising solutions.
171. Through this integrated approach, the programme aims to transform the structural conditions that limit innovation in adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to strengthen local capacities to address the impacts of climate change in a sustainable, equitable, and effective manner.

C. Sourcing small grant proposals for climate adaptation potential

Describe how the project/programme will source innovation small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience.

172. Sourcing: The programme will leverage the consolidated institutional processes and track record of the FONTAGRO digital platform to identify, select, and manage small-grant proposals aimed at innovation for climate adaptation. To maximize the reach and diversity of applications, a dissemination strategy will be implemented to ensure the call reaches public institutions that work directly with producer groups, such as agricultural extension and technology transfer entities. Efforts will be made to actively involve them so that they participate specifically as multipliers of the call through their networks and their work with vulnerable producer groups, encouraging their participation and engagement with the project. This strategy will include gender considerations and aspects of inclusion and participation to ensure that vulnerable groups—such as Indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities—can also access the call's information. The call will be presented through a two-session webinar, and the programme will incorporate feedback mechanisms to improve proposal quality, as well as conduct periodic evaluations to adjust the programmes approach throughout the innovation development cycle.
173. Screening and evaluation: The programme will apply a structured, transparent and independent evaluation framework, as detailed under Activity 1.2.1, including the related scoring matrices and Annex V.
174. The Evaluation Panel will be independent and composed of externally selected evaluators with expertise in innovation and climate resilience in the agricultural sector, chosen through a competitive process. Evaluators will review each eligible proposal (i.e., proposals that have already passed the PMU's Stage 1 eligibility and E&S screening) for technical and climate relevance, adaptation value, gender approach, and methodological and operational feasibility. Strict mechanisms

will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflicts of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary. While national authorities may be engaged in dissemination and knowledge-sharing processes, they will not participate in proposal scoring or selection decisions, thereby preserving the independence, objectivity, and technical integrity of the evaluation process.

175. The programme will implement a two-stage screening and evaluation process, supported by the indicative evaluation matrix and thresholds presented in the relevant annexes:
176. Stage 1 - Eligibility and Adaptation Screening (Pass/Fail): All proposals will undergo mandatory screening to verify compliance with minimum requirements. Proposals must demonstrate:
 - Legal eligibility of participants: Member countries of CAF are eligible, verification of the legal status of the applicants
 - Compliance with the minimum formal and administrative submission requirements of the call
 - A clearly articulated climate risk and vulnerability context;
 - Activities covering research/knowledge transfer and a direct field-based adaptation action under real conditions;
 - Identifiable direct beneficiaries;
 - Compliance with environmental and social requirements; Activities must not be included in the exclusion list (see Annex II) and classified as environmental and social risk category C or B
 - Alignment with national or subnational priorities; and
 - A credible adaptation objective linking the proposed innovation to measurable reductions in vulnerability or strengthened adaptive capacity.
177. Only proposals meeting all eligibility and minimum adaptation requirements will advance to technical evaluation. Detailed screening criteria and guidance will be further developed during the design of the Call for Proposal and associated Terms of Reference. More detailed on the evaluation framework can be found in Annex V.
178. Stage 2 - Technical Evaluation and Scoring: Eligible proposals will be assessed using the approved scoring matrix (see Table 6), where Adaptation Value constitutes the core priority. This section accounts for 50 out of 100 total points and requires a minimum threshold score to ensure that only proposals with strong adaptation relevance and measurable resilience outcomes are selected. Additional weighted criteria include innovation, technological readiness, scalability, feasibility, institutional capacity, economic and social co-benefits (including gender), complementarity, and cost-effectiveness. Minimum scoring for approved projects will be 80 points.
179. This framework ensures that the screening and selection process consistently prioritizes proposals with high adaptation value. These criteria will be further refined in the call Terms of Reference to be prepared under Activity 1.1.1, drawing on the Programme operational guidelines, and the applicable Adaptation Fund policies.
180. Alignment with national and sub-national adaptation priorities will form an explicit component of the eligibility and adaptation screening process. Applicants will be required to clearly identify the relevant policy instruments addressed and explain how the proposed activities translate those priorities into concrete, field-based adaptation actions. In contexts where formal instruments are absent, outdated, or not publicly available, applicants may provide alternative credible evidence of alignment, such as officially endorsed sectoral strategies, subnational development plans, adaptation communications, UNFCCC submissions, government programmes, or letters of support from competent public institutions. Screening will assess the credibility and relevance of the alignment narrative rather than the formal status of a single instrument.
181. The evaluation and prioritization criteria will be specifically designed to identify solutions with high potential to generate concrete adaptation actions, reduce climate vulnerability, and strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change. The programme will promote a broad and diverse portfolio of innovations, including technological, social, institutional, financial, and nature-based solutions, as well as new applications of existing practices and entirely novel approaches.
182. Minimum application proposal package: Climate Innovation Science–Community Partnership project proposals must include the following:
 - They must be submitted by **Science–Community Partnerships** from the same country, as established in Figure 2. The CVs of the technical leaders and the commitment letters or agreements from each party must be provided, ensuring that these actors have been informed and engaged to participate in the specific innovation ecosystem.
 - Submit a **functional prototype** of an adaptation innovation project with a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 5 to 8 for acceleration, or, alternatively, TRL 4 for incubation up to TRL 5 and subsequently accelerated to TRL 8. Prototypes with a TRL 5 maturity level will be prioritized, although those at TRL 4 will also be accepted, provided that their advancement to TRL 8 can be achieved within a maximum period of 24 months.
 - Submit a **mapping of the key innovation** ecosystem actors that the project intends to develop or engage.
 - Provide the **climate justification** of the project, including:
 - Climate problem: the threat, its impact on the agricultural system/producers, the community's climate risk, and how future scenarios could exacerbate the situation.

- Proposed innovative solution: how it addresses the climate problem for the most vulnerable groups, either by enhancing adaptive capacities or by reducing the exposure or vulnerability of the system, ecosystem, or producer group.
 - **Submit an Environmental and Social Risk Analysis, Gender Analysis for the proposed solution, Consultation Report.** Commitment to fully develop and comply with an Environmental and Social Management Plan, and a Gender Action Plan, if selected for funding. Selected Partnerships will be supported by the PMU to design these plans and will not receive funding until these plans are approved.
 - Include a **Training and Technical Assistance Plan detailing** how producer extension and training will be conducted based on the developed innovation.
 - Provide details on **how the project will comply with relevant national standards.**
 - Submit the procurement plan, budget, timeline, and logical framework of the project.
 - Include a **cost–benefit analysis** presenting the economic, gender, environmental, and social benefits associated with the proposal.
 - Provide a **sustainability plan and scalability potential** for the agro-climatic innovation project.
 - Identify **regulatory barriers or gaps that could hinder the implementation of** the innovation.
183. The Evaluation Panel will be independent and composed of externally selected evaluators with expertise in innovation and climate resilience in the agricultural sector, chosen through a competitive process and also for one IICA technical expert. Evaluators will review each proposal for technical and climate relevance, environmental and social safeguards, gender approach, and methodological and operational feasibility within the established timeframe. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflicts of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary. While national authorities may be engaged in dissemination and knowledge-sharing processes, they will not participate in proposal scoring or selection decisions, thereby preserving the independence, objectivity, and technical integrity of the evaluation process.

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

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

184. The programme will support the incubation and acceleration of at least 20 innovative climate adaptation initiatives across CAF's partner countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. To achieve this, the programme will apply a structured, two stage, and transparent selection process to ensure that proposed innovations demonstrate strong potential to generate economic, social, gender and environmental benefits, particularly for communities vulnerable to climate change. The selection and design processes successfully demonstrated through FONTAGRO's innovation programme will be adapted under the AFCIA Programme of the Adaptation Fund to meet the specific needs of climate adaptation. As part of the call for proposals, applicants will be required to demonstrate how their concept addresses the adaptation needs of vulnerable communities (assessed in stage 1) while contributing to economic, environmental, gender and social benefits. In stage 2 (technical scoring) of the selection evaluation, an indicative weighted matrix in which these benefits are explicitly scored under the criterion "Economic, social, environmental and gender benefits" (10 points), alongside other delivery and innovation considerations. This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed innovation generates: (i) economic benefits, (ii) social benefits, (iii) environmental benefits, and (iv) gender benefits, including alignment with the project's GAP. Indicatively, scoring may be distributed across these four dimensions (up to 2.5 points each, for a maximum of 10 points) to ensure transparent and balanced consideration of benefits without compromising adaptation objectives. This approach ensures that selected projects funded by the programme demonstrate meaningful benefits for vulnerable communities through both (i) minimum pass/fail requirements at entry and (ii) explicit weighting within the technical scoring framework.
185. Through Component 1—focused on the identification, financing, and strengthening of locally led, context-specific innovative solutions—the programme will generate tangible and comprehensive benefits (economic, social—including gender—and environmental) in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors. The programme will ensure that only proposals with a clear pathway toward positive and inclusive results are selected for support. Potential environmental and social impacts, as well as mitigation measures, will be part of the eligibility criteria, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, as well as CAF's guidelines. As part of the design process, all selected proponents will be required to submit: (i) a simple gender and social inclusion plan identifying expected outcomes and measures to ensure equitable access to and distribution of benefits; and (ii) a brief environmental and social risk assessment accompanied by a management plan. This process will be supported by the technical assistance on ESS,

GESI, and sustainability included under Component 1. In addition, the results of Component 3—focused on lessons learned and knowledge management—will significantly expand the reach of results, enabling a broader range of stakeholders to access, adapt, and replicate the solutions developed.

186. While the specific benefits will vary according to the type of project selected, and drawing on the sectoral prioritization and lessons learned from FONTAGRO and CAF, it is expected that the financed innovations will generate benefits across four main areas:
187. Economic Benefits: By promoting and financing innovative and climate-resilient agricultural, forestry, and fisheries technologies and practices, producers will be able to reduce losses from extreme events, improve the productivity of their systems, and strengthen the stability of their incomes. The development of adaptive innovative ideas will help stimulate rural economies by generating new employment opportunities, strengthening local value chains, and improving the economic autonomy of producers, especially small- and medium-scale producers.
188. Social Benefits: The programme will provide technical training, institutional support, and practical knowledge generation, contributing to the empowerment of communities and local change agents. Improvements in productive efficiency and reductions in post-harvest losses due to extreme climate events will increase food and water security in the region.
189. Gender and Equity Considerations: The participatory design of solutions will ensure that women, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups participate from the identification stage through project implementation, promoting their leadership and decision-making. By providing entrepreneurial opportunities for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, the programme contributes to more equitable and socially inclusive economic growth, strengthening the leadership of these groups in local and national economies.
190. Environmental Benefits: The technologies and practices promoted will aim to restore soils, protect water sources, reduce pressure on natural ecosystems, and enhance productive biodiversity. By fostering more sustainable production systems, the programme will contribute to reducing the ecological footprint of the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors and strengthening the resilience of socio-environmental systems to climate change.

E. Cost-effectiveness

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

191. The programme was designed to maximize efficiency in the use of financial, human, and technical resources, ensuring a high climate impact for every dollar invested through the Adaptation Fund's AFCIA mechanism.
192. Within the technical evaluation framework described in the evaluation matrix, priority will be given to achieving concrete results in climate resilience, the technical sustainability of interventions, and a high cost-effectiveness ratio, in line with the strategic objectives of the programme. Projects that generate tangible economic, social, and environmental benefits for vulnerable groups and promote gender equality will also be prioritized. The call will require a cost-effectiveness assessment addressing economic and financial viability through a clear value proposition and a quantitative analysis—as far as possible—of direct and indirect costs, as well as economic, social, financial, and environmental benefits, with particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable communities and traditionally excluded groups. Applicants will also need to compare the cost-benefit ratio of their innovation against the current scenario, explicitly demonstrating its innovative attributes, profitability, and potential to generate sustainable impacts at scale.
193. Specifically, as an initial and proportionate cost-effectiveness assessment at the selection stage 2, evaluators will consider indicative cost per direct beneficiary reached and, where relevant to the innovation type, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy (e.g., access to climate information/services, adoption of practices, or reported loss reduction). These proxies will be assessed against the total grant cost over the project implementation period. To guide evaluators in their assessment, applicants at entry will be required to provide: (a) indicative unit costs based on the proposed budget and expected reach; (b) the expected scale of beneficiaries, hectares, or producers to be covered; and (c) a plausible narrative on how unit costs could improve through learning, replication, or institutional partnerships during and beyond implementation. Evaluators will not apply rigid thresholds but will assess the internal coherence and plausibility of the cost-effectiveness hypothesis, considering whether projected unit costs are credible given the innovation type, geographic context, and implementation approach. Projects with weak or implausible value propositions, disproportionate costs, or limited potential to reduce unit costs through scaling will not achieve a competitive score under this dimension.
194. To provide evaluators with an orientative frame of reference, cost-effectiveness assessments at Stage 2 will be informed by indicative reference information drawn from IICA and FONTAGRO's public portfolio and comparable completed projects, which document unit-cost data across different innovation types operating in LAC agricultural contexts. These references are not mandatory thresholds but serve as plausibility anchors to calibrate the reasonableness of applicants'

cost-effectiveness hypotheses relative to comparable interventions. The programme recognises that plausible unit costs vary substantially depending on innovation type (for example, digital agriculture and climate-information tools, climate-resilient varieties and seed systems, sustainable soil and water management practices, bioinputs and pest-management solutions, early warning systems, post-harvest/value-chain innovations, etc), implementation context, and maturity stage, and that no single threshold applies uniformly across the portfolio. Evaluators will be expected to assess cost-effectiveness hypotheses against the relevant reference category for each innovation type, considering whether projected unit costs are internally consistent with the proposed budget, expected reach, and implementation approach, and whether the applicant presents a credible narrative for how unit costs could improve as the innovation matures and scales beyond the grant period.

195. Cost-effectiveness and sustainability are assessed as complementary and interrelated dimensions within the programme's evaluation framework. Cost-effectiveness under this programme is understood not only in terms of immediate implementation efficiency, but as value for money over time — that is, the programme's ability to generate sustained adaptation outcomes with the potential for improved unit costs as innovations mature, scale, and are replicated. Accordingly, at selection stage, evaluators will explicitly consider whether proposed innovations present a credible pathway from current unit costs at pilot scale toward improved efficiency under replication or expansion conditions. In practice, while cost-effectiveness (5 points) and sustainability, scalability and replication potential (5 points) appear as distinct criteria in the Stage 2 scoring matrix, evaluators are instructed to read them in conjunction when forming an overall judgment on long-term value for money. Proposals that demonstrate how partnerships, institutional anchoring, or adoption by existing programmes could reduce the cost per sustained adaptation outcome beyond the grant period will be scored more favourably under both the cost-effectiveness and sustainability criteria of the scoring matrix. Evaluators are therefore expected to assess the internal coherence between these two dimensions — specifically, whether the proposed sustainability pathway is consistent with, and supportive of, the cost-effectiveness trajectory presented. To operationalize this integrated assessment, applicants will be asked, where relevant and proportionate to the innovation type and maturity stage, to estimate an indicative cost per sustained adaptation outcome, calculated as the total AFCIA grant cost divided by the number of direct beneficiaries, hectares, producers/adopters, institutions, or other proposed adaptation outcome proxies expected to continue receiving, applying, maintaining, or enabling adaptation benefits beyond the grant period. This ratio will not be used as a rigid threshold, but as a common reference to assess whether the proposed sustainability and scaling pathway is consistent with the cost-effectiveness trajectory presented.
196. This approach builds on FONTAGRO's established evaluation practice, which already requires applicants to provide quantitative ex-ante impact assessments, beneficiary quantification, business models with adoption assumptions, and scaling and sustainability strategies as mandatory components of project proposals and adapts these standards to the innovation stage and scope of AFCIA-funded grants.
197. The programme will apply a **standardized programme-level cost-effectiveness framework** to ensure consistency and comparability across the portfolio, while maintaining proportionality to the innovation type and maturity stage. This framework rests on three elements.
198. **Common parameters and standardized proxy indicators:** The set of proxy indicators defined for project-level assessment — cost per direct beneficiary reached, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management, and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy, as relevant to each innovation type — will be applied consistently across all funded projects, together with standardized cost categories, ratios and definitions incorporated into FONTAGRO's regional monitoring system based on evidence from previous IICA and FONTAGRO projects and comparable innovation initiatives in the region. To ensure comparability, all projects will apply common calculation assumptions. These indicators will not operate as rigid ex ante thresholds, but as common reference parameters to compare ranges, trends, and efficiency trajectories across countries, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, and innovation categories.
199. **Differentiated expectations across the innovation cycle:** Cost-effectiveness expectations will evolve proportionately to the stage of innovation maturity. At entry and incubation stages, projects will present preliminary unit-cost estimates based on their proposed budget, expected reach, and value proposition, together with a plausible narrative on how costs may decline or benefits increase through learning, replication, partnerships, or institutional anchoring; the PMU will provide targeted technical assistance to refine these assumptions and define fit-for-purpose unit-cost metrics. During acceleration and piloting, these assumptions will be tested under implementation conditions, with emphasis on generating observed evidence on delivery costs, adoption patterns, operational bottlenecks, efficiency gains from replication, and potential economies of scale. By completion, projects will be expected to validate the cost-effectiveness and sustainability assumptions presented at entry and tested during implementation. This will include comparing ex ante unit-cost estimates with observed implementation costs; distinguishing one-off development and piloting costs from recurrent delivery, operation, maintenance, and monitoring costs; and assessing whether partnerships, institutional anchoring, adoption by existing programmes, or market-based arrangements have created a credible pathway to sustain or reduce the cost per adaptation outcome beyond the grant period. Projects will also report evidence of reach, adoption, continued use, partnership commitments, institutional or market uptake, and the conditions under which the innovation

could be replicated at broader scale. In this way, completion-stage assessment will not only document achieved cost-effectiveness during the grant period, but also test whether the proposed sustainability pathway supports a viable cost-effectiveness trajectory for scaling.

200. **Portfolio-level aggregation and synthesis for learning and scaling:** At programme level, the PMU will aggregate and analyse project-level cost-effectiveness evidence across the portfolio using harmonized indicators and standardized reporting templates. The enhanced FONTAGRO platform and dashboard will support the systematic tagging, aggregation, and visualization of cost-effectiveness data by country, agroecological context, sector, innovation type, target beneficiary group, adaptation outcome, and scaling potential. This portfolio-level synthesis will allow the programme to identify efficiency ranges, scale effects, and emerging benchmarks for different categories of agricultural adaptation innovation. The results will feed into mid-term and final scale-up readiness assessments, inform knowledge products for policymakers, investors, and scaling partners, and strengthen the programme's learning function on which innovations generate sustained adaptation outcomes at viable costs.
201. The long-term cost-effectiveness rationale of this type of programs is supported by evidence from FONTAGRO's regional portfolio of completed projects, which documents the economic returns generated by agricultural innovation investments in LAC. Across a portfolio with an aggregate investment of approximately USD 8.1 million, completed projects have generated an estimated USD 83.3 million in economic benefits, with benefit-cost ratios ranging from 1:0.2 to 1:46 across different innovation types, scales, and agroecological contexts (average 1:10). This is further reinforced by evidence from the IDB (2023), which highlights that investments in agricultural research and innovation in LAC are essential to address the combined challenges of climate change, natural resource degradation, and productivity gaps — and that technological progress in the sector generates returns not only through productivity gains but also through quality improvements, expanded harvesting opportunities, and optimized product conservation and processing. According to ECLAC and FAO (2023), average productivity could increase by up to 40% through the adoption of technological innovations and improved management practices. By investing in innovative approaches that enhance productivity, strengthen resilience, and reduce costs, the programme leverages a proven type of investment with high returns and significant potential to improve climate change adaptation. The Programme was designed following best practices in policies and programmes for the incubation and acceleration of innovations, which are: i) demand-driven orientation; ii) incubation and acceleration based on the outset on prototypes, not ideas or business plans; and iii) the Sussex approach and its resource triangle.
202. Demand-driven orientation seeks to effectively link scientific and technological development with the needs and preferences of beneficiaries, in this case vulnerable rural communities. This ensures that solutions address real needs, increase the likelihood of adoption, optimize resources, promote collaboration, and generate sustainable impact. By focusing innovation on priority problems expressed by beneficiaries, this approach maximizes the relevance, efficiency, and scalability of the technologies developed, particularly in rural, agricultural, and climate adaptation contexts. The systematization and dissemination of TRLs facilitate the design of incubation and acceleration mechanisms. For this programme, TRL 4 or TRL 5 is required for entry, with a target of TRL 8 as the exit profile. Prototyping is essential for climate adaptation innovations, which involve high environmental variability and uncertainty. Prototypes allow for: i) testing technologies in different microclimates; ii) verifying the resilience of materials and processes; iii) assessing social adoption in rural contexts; and iv) comparing costs and benefits against traditional solutions. A prototype-based innovation programme reduces uncertainty, validates technical feasibility, adapts to real users, saves costs, enables rapid learning, and generates solid evidence for scaling. In complex contexts such as agriculture or climate adaptation, prototyping is essential to ensure that solutions truly work and are adopted, making the use of public and private resources more efficient and transparent. Thirdly, it should be highlighted that the programme aligns with the immediate relevant context of the Sussex approach to innovation: i) it provides access to technological infrastructure (equipment + technical assistance); ii) it provides access to training for the human resources involved in innovation; and iii) access to relevant financing. This criterion is part of the broader Sussex School innovation approach, which conceives innovation as a systemic, interactive, social, political, and historically situated process, where users, institutions, and contexts are as important as the technology itself.
203. The programme's regional approach reduces unit costs, transaction costs and shortens cycle times, compared to a country-by-country set-up by centralizing key fixed-cost functions and avoiding duplication that would otherwise need to be replicated separately in each participating country. These functions include: (i) a single regional call design and outreach process, replacing multiple national calls and communication packages (Activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2); (ii) a shared pool of independent external evaluators trained and calibrated under one scoring matrix, standardized eligibility and digital scoring system (Activity 1.2.1), avoiding repeated recruitment, training, and calibration per country; (iii) centralized technical assistance for applicants and selected projects, including webinars, proposal refinement, safeguards strengthening, cost-effectiveness assessment, monitoring, and scaling support (Activities 1.1.2 and 2.1.1) rather than being replicated at national level; (iv) regional open innovation, peer-learning, and marketplace spaces that allow projects working on similar climate risks, value chains, agroecological conditions, or innovation types to exchange solutions and avoid repeated

- problem-solving processes in isolation (Activities 2.1.2 and 2.1.3); (v) harmonized monitoring, reporting, and cost-effectiveness measurement templates integrated into FONTAGRO's digital monitoring and reporting system (Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) rather than sustaining parallel national systems; and (vii) shared regional knowledge products, learning events, policy briefs, synthesis reports, cost-effectiveness notes, scaling profiles, and an online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions, instead of repeated country-level production of similar materials (Activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3).
204. By spreading these fixed administrative, technical, evaluation, monitoring, and knowledge-management costs across a portfolio at least 20 innovation projects and multiple countries' LAC, the programme will reduce the average support cost per funded project and avoid duplication of evaluator recruitment, technical assistance materials, screening tools, reporting systems, dissemination activities, and communication products. This structure is expected to improve cost-effectiveness by lowering common delivery costs, enabling comparable assessment across projects, and allowing successful innovations, tools, and lessons to be replicated across countries with lower marginal costs than under isolated national implementation arrangements.
205. In this regard, the regional approach contributes to the programme's cost-effectiveness by enabling economies of scale, as coordinated implementation across countries reduces unit costs for the design, pilot testing, and adoption of adaptive technologies and practices in the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors. It also allows for the shared use of technical and financial resources, since CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO will channel specialized knowledge, regional innovation networks, and digital platforms among countries, optimizing resource use and significantly reducing transaction costs.
206. This is further supported by leveraging existing resources and mechanisms developed by CAF and FONTAGRO, such as methodologies, tools, technical capacities, digital platforms, and proven innovation networks, which will reduce transaction costs and avoid duplication of efforts. Based on its regional experience in promoting agricultural innovation, FONTAGRO will provide technical guidance on project design, offer evaluation criteria, and facilitate knowledge exchange between countries, while contributing its expertise in managing multinational projects and fostering public-private partnerships to generate synergies and optimize implementation.
207. CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO, as regional entities with technical presence in LAC, will facilitate the identification, validation, and scaling of innovative adaptation solutions that address common climate challenges in the region. Coordinated actions in dissemination, communication, knowledge exchange, and capacity building will accelerate learning through experience sharing, avoid duplication in innovation processes, and foster synergies among countries with similar climate vulnerabilities. Regarding regional replicability and scalability, solutions will be designed from the outset with high potential for adaptation to the different agroecological and socioeconomic contexts of member countries, increasing investment efficiency and reducing the adaptation cost per beneficiary.

F. Alignment to National and Sub-National Strategies

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

208. Alignment with national strategies and priorities will be a mandatory criterion in the evaluation and selection of projects. To ensure this, the programme will incorporate specific selection criteria assessing the contribution of each proposal to national instruments such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), Technology Action Plans (TAPs), as well as sectoral priorities for innovation and agricultural research, and other strategies related to development, poverty reduction, and adaptation. The call for proposals will require applicants to clearly explain how their project aligns with these national and subnational frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and other relevant national strategies.
209. Recognizing that the availability and update status of NAPs, TNAs, or TAPs varies across countries, the programme will apply this requirement with context-appropriate flexibility. Applicants may demonstrate alignment using the most relevant instruments available, including, inter alia, sectoral strategies, subnational plans, or other local policy frameworks. In cases where formal national instruments are outdated or absent, the selection process will analyze the alignment based on its consistency with demonstrated territorial priorities. This flexible approach will be applied during the technical evaluation phase, ensuring that no unnecessary barriers to participation are created while maintaining the strategic integrity of the selection process.
210. This alignment requirement will be operationalized through the programme's two-stage selection framework (Annex V). At Stage 1 (pass/fail screening), proposals must demonstrate alignment with at least one relevant national or subnational adaptation or sectoral instrument applicable to the target territory. At Stage 2 (technical scoring), alignment will be assessed under the Core Priority: Adaptation Value category through the sub-criterion "Alignment with national/subnational strategies

and plans” (5 points), rewarding proposals that clearly link alignment to the project objective and field-level adaptation actions and measurable results.

211. In this way, the programme aims to contribute to CAF’s commitment, under the UNFCCC framework, to align all its operations with the Paris Agreement. Likewise, the programme aligns with the international commitments assumed by countries in the region under the three Rio Conventions: The Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UNFCCC. In this regard, it contributes to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by promoting an ecosystem-based approach that safeguards biodiversity, including the conservation of ecosystems with high ecological integrity and the preservation of connectivity in agroecosystems.
212. Similarly, the programme supports the conceptual framework of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), driving innovation in restoration, conservation, and sustainable soil management measures to counteract productivity loss, in line with the voluntary targets adopted by countries towards 2030. Additionally, the project contributes to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 by strengthening the resilience of the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors against climate threats and extreme events.
213. Finally, the project incorporates principles from the United Nations System Strategy on Water and Sanitation (2024), recognizing the central role of water in food security and promoting actions aligned with the accelerators of SDG 6—such as innovation, financing, governance, and capacity building.
214. The programme is aligned not only at the regional level but also at the national level with the policies of the 21 CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The vulnerability of the agricultural sector is consistently highlighted in national documents—whether through NDCs or NAPs—where countries identify this sector as a priority for climate change adaptation, with the aim of increasing resilience and strengthening food security for their populations.
215. The programme also directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This is achieved by integrating gender, interculturality, and social inclusion approaches, in line with the commitments undertaken by CAF and the member countries included in this proposal.

G. Alignment with National Technical Standard

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

216. The AFCIA programme by CAF/FONTAGRO for LAC ensures that all agricultural innovation proposals are evaluated to verify compliance with relevant national technical standards, sectoral policies, and applicable regulatory requirements in each participating country. This review will be conducted in alignment with the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, which will be integrated into the AFCIA programmes environmental and social guidelines.
217. During the co-design phase, proposals will be developed collaboratively by research teams, extension or technical assistance services, and agricultural producers. This joint process will demonstrate how the proposed activities align with regulatory frameworks, technical standards, and established best practices for the sector in each country.
218. Among the relevant norms and regulations for the agricultural sector that proposals must consider (as available in each country) are, for example:
 - Integrated soil and water management standards, including requirements for soil conservation, efficient water use, and erosion control.
 - Regulations on the use and management of plant protection products, such as maximum residue limits, storage and disposal requirements, and national pesticide registries.
 - Standards for sustainable agricultural production, such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), national sustainability certifications, or climate-smart agriculture standards.
 - Animal health and welfare regulations, including zoo sanitary standards, livestock waste management, and disease control.
 - Applicable environmental requirements, such as environmental impact assessments, water use permits, ecosystem protection standards, and regulations on emissions and waste management.
219. A non-exhaustive list of these standards will be included in the programme guidelines to guide applicant teams during the formulation process.
220. During the proposal evaluation stage, the Evaluation Panel will ensure that the proposals are analysed considering the national and sectoral regulatory frameworks. If it is identified that any project requires an environmental and social impact assessment, sectoral permits, or national licenses, the programme will provide timely technical guidance to ensure that

these requirements are identified, managed, and met before project implementation begins. As detailed in Table 4 (Section A) and Annex II (ESMS), all proposals undergo an initial E&S screening at application (Stage 1); selected partnerships subsequently prepare the full ESMP and GAP under PMU guidance prior to final approval, proportionate to their risk category (B or C).

221. To verify alignment with technical standards for innovation proposals, starting from the call, and regardless of their risk category, each proposal will be required to incorporate gender aspects, potential environmental and social risks, and present an initial E&S risk screening. Technical assistance will be provided during the call stage to strengthen the teams in these areas and ensure that all proposals are aligned with and comply with the Adaptation Fund's standards. This information will be submitted at the application stage. The PMU will conduct the initial E&S screening and gender review as part of Stage 1 (Table 4, Step 2–3); only proposals that pass this screening advance to Stage 2, where the Independent External Evaluation Panel assesses adaptation value, technical quality, and scalability, without re-opening the E&S categorization decision.
222. As additional evidence of alignment with national and regional frameworks, the Policy Briefs that will be developed during the programmes implementation will document, from the initial phase, how each innovation proposal has been designed in coherence with national policies and technical standards. These knowledge products will serve as communication and policy advocacy tools, reflecting the connection between the promoted innovations and the strategic priorities for agricultural development, sustainability, and climate change adaptation of the participating countries.
223. The operational workflow that will apply to each identified subproject, including screening, approval, disbursement, monitoring; who is responsible for review and sign-off at each step and the documentation required at each step, including decision points have been further clarified in section E, including a diagram (Figure 4).

H. Complementarity with Other Funding Sources

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

224. The programme has been designed to ensure complementarity with other regional programmes, avoiding duplication of efforts. Proposals will be screened against applicant self-declarations and cross-checked, as relevant, with FONTAGRO's historical project database, the Adaptation Fund innovation project portfolio, CAF's climate and agriculture investment portfolio. Applicants will also be required to declare any existing, recent or planned related funding in the submission template.
225. This proposal provides additional support to initiatives that CAF has developed in institutional strengthening and the promotion of innovation, reaffirming its commitment to scientific and technological development in LAC. It aligns with previous initiatives such as "Science and Technology Against Hunger."⁴⁴ The programme, which channelled resources toward technology-based agri-food solutions, is part of CAF's strategy to promote research, development, and innovation processes with regional impact. In this case, the project introduces a novel approach by prioritizing the provision of climate change adaptation grants targeted at agricultural producers, alongside complementary components for institutional strengthening, systematization, and regional dissemination of lessons learned.
226. Unlike other current CAF instruments—such as the loans included in the "Agri-Food Prosperity" strategy launched in 2025⁴⁵, which focus on infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and traditional financing—this proposal emphasizes the promotion of innovative technological and social solutions through direct support to partnerships and institutions. It also offers a unified regional platform with standardized criteria and coordinated technical assistance, overcoming the fragmentation and variable country-specific approaches that characterize many IICA innovation programmes.
227. The Programme also complements and expands FONTAGRO's competitive mechanisms with innovation grants, which emphasize scientific–technological consortia and applied research. This initiative differs by focusing exclusively on adaptation-oriented innovations, with greater community participation in co-design, more robust technical support, and coverage that includes all CAF member countries, even those not part of FONTAGRO. The programmes design incorporates key lessons learned from FONTAGRO, drawn from the study "Impactful Innovations: Lessons on Climate Change Adaptation in Family Farming in LAC," conducted by FONTAGRO–IDB–IICA⁴⁶ as presented in the context section of this document.

Relevant initiatives and complementarity.

⁴⁴ Official CAF website / News "CAF provides USD 8 million in financing for 'Science and Technology Against Hunger' projects" July 6, 2021.

⁴⁵ Sitio oficial de CAF/Noticia "CAF invertirá USD 8.500 millones hasta 2030 para impulsar la prosperidad agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe" 25 de marzo de 2025.

⁴⁶ Innovaciones de impacto. Innovaciones de impacto: lecciones sobre adaptación al cambio climático de la agricultura familiar en América Latina y el Caribe / FONTAGRO. 2015. <https://publications.iadb.org/es/publications/spanish/viewer/Innovaciones-de-impacto-Lecciones-sobre-adaptaci%C3%B3n-al-cambio-clim%C3%A1tico-de-la-agricultura-familiar-en-Am%C3%A9rica-Latina-y-el-Caribe.pdf>

228. The programme strategically complements existing initiatives by addressing critical gaps. For instance, while IDB Lab (Innovation for Climate Resilience) focuses on solutions with market potential and established business models, this programme provides grant financing for agricultural and forestry innovations that lack commercial maturity. It also builds on research generated by CGIAR and national centres to foster 'last-mile' community adoption and expands the reach of initiatives like AgroHub Zamorano to all 21 CAF member countries. For example, while CGIAR initiatives generate validated technologies, this programme supports their adaptation and deployment at community level; similarly, while IDB Lab promotes market-ready solutions, AFCIA supports earlier-stage innovations to reach operational maturity. As presented in Table 1 of Section A, there are multiple initiatives in the region that support innovation, but with different approaches, beneficiaries, and scales. Potentially overlapping initiatives include, among others: previous FONTAGRO–IDB climate technology transfer and adaptation innovation projects; CAF-supported regional climate resilience and sustainable agriculture programmes; CGIAR and national agricultural research initiatives focused on climate-smart agriculture; bilateral donor-supported innovation hubs; and AFCIA Phase I innovation pilots. The proposed programme does not duplicate these efforts, rather, it reinforces, builds upon, and complements them by:
- (i) focusing specifically on field-tested, scalable adaptation innovations.
 - (ii) applying a structured incubation-to-acceleration pathway; and
 - (iii) providing regional platforms for scaling, learning, and cost reduction. Lessons from these initiatives—particularly the need for stronger links between innovation, adoption, and scalability—have directly informed the programme's design.
229. Lessons from these initiatives—particularly the need for stronger links between innovation, adoption, and scalability—have directly informed the programme's design. Analysis of the existing ecosystem shows that, although Latin America and the Caribbean have relevant agricultural and climate innovation initiatives, none combine small-grant financing, personalized technical assistance, a science–community approach, explicit climate adaptation focus, and regional coverage within a unified mechanism. Existing programmes target specific segments—scientific research, technology startups, country-specific incubation, or small-scale community support—but do not provide a systematic bridge between local innovation, territorial piloting, and regional scalability, particularly at the level of smallholder adoption and last-mile delivery. The proposed AFCIA programme complements these initiatives by addressing critical gaps in access, coordination, and continuity, avoiding duplication of efforts, and strengthening climate action through a regional coordinating mechanism that operates in alignment with existing actors.
230. In particular, it does not overlap with the mechanisms of other multilateral banks, such as the IDB, whose instruments are primarily directed toward large-scale investments, credit schemes, or market-potential solutions, without a specific grant line for the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors lacking established business models. Likewise, the Programme expands regional coverage and multi-stakeholder reach compared to programmes such as AgroHub Zamorano and provides higher funding amounts and more robust technical support than programmes like the Climate-LAC Innovation Hub or Semilla de la Innovación.
231. Overall, the proposal represents a complementary and strategic contribution within the CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO portfolio, and within the regional climate innovation ecosystem, by integrating efforts and providing capabilities that are not currently available in a coordinated manner.
232. Finally, unlike the operational AFCIA programmes, this proposal focuses exclusively on the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors in LAC, providing added value by addressing sectoral and regional needs that are not fully covered by global mechanisms. Lessons from the AFCIA–UNEP II programme show that demand far exceeds supply, highlighting the persistent need for support in innovation and adaptation technologies. In this context, the CAF/FONTAGRO programme complements existing efforts by offering specialized and context-specific support for a key region and productive sector, helping to expand coverage and better meet the unmet demand for adaptation innovation.

Process and Criteria for Assessing projects Duplication and Complementarity

233. The evaluation panel will apply a multi-layered process to assess duplication and complementarity:
234. To ensure rigorous verification beyond applicant self-declaration, the PMU and the Independent Evaluation Panel will cross-check proposals against a defined set of relevant information sources, including: (i) proposals submitted under the same AFCIA-CAF/FONTAGRO call, to identify duplicate or identical projects; (ii) FONTAGRO's historical project database; (iii) CAF's climate and agriculture investment portfolio; (iv) the Adaptation Fund innovation project database; and any other relevant databases or information sources identified by the PMU, CAF, IICA, or FONTAGRO as directly relevant to the call's thematic and geographic scope.
235. As a final instance of duplication screening, shortlisted projects scoring more than 75 points will be presented in a closed and confidential coordination meeting with relevant funding agencies such as IICA, for review and screening prior to approval by the AFCIA and FONTAGRO Governance Committee.
236. Partial overlaps will be assessed using clear differentiation criteria to identify added value:

- Geographic scope: Targeting different territories, microclimates, or agroecological zones.
- Beneficiary groups: Focusing on distinct populations, such as specific women-led cooperatives or indigenous groups not reached by other funds.
- Innovation stage: Distinguishing projects by their Technology Readiness Level (TRL); for example, supporting the transition from TRL 4 (incubation) for solutions previously explored only at a conceptual level.

237. This assessment will be conducted by the Independent Panel during the technical evaluation phase, based on the information provided by applicants and cross-checked against relevant databases. Where necessary, proposals may be adjusted during the co-design phase through specific recommendations from the Panel to clarify complementarities, avoid duplication, and/or establish formal linkages with existing initiatives. In cases where substantial duplication persists, proposals may be rejected or required to be reformulated as a condition for approval. This approach ensures that AFCIA addresses critical gaps in access and coordination, avoids duplication of efforts, and strengthens regional climate action in an integrated manner.

I. Learning and knowledge management

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

238. The programme incorporates a robust knowledge management system embedded in component 3 aimed at capturing, systematizing, and disseminating evidence on effective and efficient adaptation practices, products, and technologies. This approach aligns with CAF, FONTAGRO and IICA's regional strategy to drive innovation and productivity in the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors, recognizing that sustainable growth requires not only financial and technical support but also structured learning processes that enable the scaling of effective solutions.
239. The knowledge management system is designed to ensure that evidence generated by diverse innovation grants is consistent, credible, and usable for scaling and replication.
240. (i) **Governance:** Overall governance will rest with the PMU, which will set minimum evidence requirements, manage portfolio-level synthesis, and oversee quality assurance. The Implementing Entity (CAF), the executing entity (IICA) and specialized technical providers will contribute thematic expertise, support learning events, and facilitate policy engagement. Grantees will be responsible for collecting agreed data, documenting results, and contributing to learning products as part of their grant agreements. Roles and responsibilities will be formalized in KM guidelines and reporting templates to ensure consistency across projects during the first year of the Project.
241. (ii) **Minimum evidence standards per grant.** All grants will be required to generate a minimum evidence package, proportionate to innovation stage, including: documented climate risk context; description of the adaptation solution and implementation conditions; quantitative adaptation outcome indicators (with baselines and targets, which will be discussed and validated by the coordinator to effectively showcase adaptation benefits); sex- and vulnerability-disaggregated beneficiary data; cost and unit-cost information (e.g. cost per beneficiary, hectare, or adopter, where relevant); and qualitative evidence on adoption, usability, and empowerment outcomes. These requirements will be supported by the PMU team and are part of Activity 2.1.2 and 3.1.1, aiming at strengthening results-based monitoring and improving monitoring and evaluation skills among innovation stakeholders.
242. (iii) **Validation of findings.** Evidence quality will be validated through a combination of technical review, portfolio analysis, and independent assessment. The PMU will review data submissions for completeness and consistency, supported by technical experts. Cost-effectiveness and value-for-money analyses will be conducted using standardized proxy indicators and cross-project comparisons embedded in FONTAGRO's digital monitoring system. Independent evaluations at mid-term and final stage will triangulate results, identify outliers, and validate claims of effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability.
243. (iv) **Packaging lessons for replication and scaling.** Validated lessons will be synthesized into scaling-oriented knowledge products, including solution briefs, cost-effectiveness notes, policy briefs, explicitly documenting "what works, where, why, and at what cost." Knowledge products will be disseminated through regional platforms, learning events, and targeted dialogues with policymakers, investors, and development partners (activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3).
244. The Programme will also establish a structured portfolio-level learning mechanism, under Activity 3.1.1, to ensure that lessons from individual Science–Community Partnerships are systematically aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level knowledge products. As part of the monitoring and evidence-generation process under Activity 3.1.1, each funded project will be required to maintain a simple evidence and learning log, using a harmonized template provided by the PMU. This log will document implementation conditions, adaptation results, user feedback, gender and inclusion outcomes, cost and unit-cost information, barriers encountered, enabling factors, adjustments made through the test–learn–develop cycle, and lessons relevant for replication or scaling. The PMU will periodically review these project-level evidence logs and monitoring data under Activity 3.1.1, using the enhanced FONTAGRO platform and dashboard under Activity

- 3.1.2.a to identify patterns across countries, innovation types, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, and implementation models. This review will support the preparation of portfolio-level synthesis products under Activity 3.1.2.b, including thematic learning briefs, cross-country comparative notes, annual learning reports, compilations of good practices, and policy-relevant evidence summaries. These products will go beyond individual case studies by identifying common success factors, recurrent bottlenecks, contextual conditions for adoption, and practical recommendations for scaling adaptation innovations across the region.
245. Cross-learning among Science–Community Partnerships will be facilitated through structured mechanisms, including open innovation sessions under Activity 2.1.2, the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace under Activity 2.1.3, and knowledge-sharing workshops, virtual exchanges, and dissemination spaces under Activity 3.1.2.b. These spaces will enable grantees to exchange lessons on co-design, field validation, community adoption, gender-responsive innovation, safeguards implementation, cost-effectiveness, and scaling strategies. The PMU will document the outcomes of these exchanges and feed them into programme-level knowledge products, progress reports, policy dialogues, investor engagement materials, the online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions under Activity 3.1.2.b, and the promotion of scaling and replication of successful cases under Activity 3.1.3.
246. Within this framework, the programme will:
- **Promote strategic Science–Community Partnerships**, bringing together research centres, innovation institutions, and local actors to co-generate and disseminate knowledge on resilient and sustainable agricultural technologies that have demonstrated success.
 - **Document and systematize experiences** arising from the supported initiatives, with emphasis on the effectiveness of sustainable production practices; their technical, social, economic, and environmental performance; technology adoption by producers; improvements in climate resilience; and the factors that facilitate the scalability and replicability of innovations—recognizing that adoption and replication require time and institutional support.
 - **Produce knowledge outputs targeted to different audiences:** The Programme will tailor knowledge products and dissemination channels to the needs of different audiences, using the activities and resources already foreseen under Components 2 and 3. For local communities, producer organizations, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, products will focus on practical and accessible materials such as guides, factsheets, selected visual or audiovisual materials, local-language summaries where appropriate, and peer-learning or field/hybrid exchange spaces. For policymakers and public institutions, the Programme will prepare policy briefs, evidence notes, synthesis reports, and recommendations highlighting adaptation effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, enabling conditions, and opportunities for integration into public programmes and climate finance pipelines. For investors, financial institutions, development partners, and scaling partners, products may include investment briefs, pitch decks, scaling profiles, cost-effectiveness notes, and curated solution portfolios linked to the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace. For regional and global platforms, including FONTAGRO, CAF, IICA, AFCIA and other adaptation innovation networks, the Programme will develop standardized case studies, solution briefs, good-practice compilations, thematic learning notes, regional synthesis reports, and an online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions. Uptake will be monitored through platform analytics, event participation, stakeholder feedback, documented use of knowledge products, and evidence of replication or piloting in new contexts. These knowledge products will contribute to closing knowledge gaps related to climate-resilient agricultural innovation, supporting informed decision-making, and strengthening the upscaling and replicability of measures.
 - **Conduct economic analyses** on the return on investment of sustainable practices and technologies to document, with evidence, the profitability of investing in innovation, informing scaling strategies and guiding decision-making processes.
 - **Promote peer learning and experience exchange** through the FONTAGRO platform, workshops, and virtual spaces that connect beneficiaries with other stakeholders in the region, facilitating the adaptation and replication of successful solutions.
247. The dissemination of learnings will prioritize the generation of practical inputs for decision-makers, agricultural producers, and private sector actors, with a special emphasis on innovation pathways that have proven to be effective and replicable.
248. Knowledge management uptake will be monitored through both reach and use-oriented indicators. Reach and engagement will be tracked through the number of publication downloads, views of disseminated information through digital platforms, and unique users accessing KM products. To assess use and influence, the Programme will track documented cases of uptake, including replication, piloting, interest in replication, and the use of Programme knowledge products or evidence to inform policy dialogue, investment discussions, public programmes, adaptation planning, or scaling decisions in new locations or programmes. Qualitative uptake will also be captured through structured feedback from stakeholders participating in events, learning sessions, policy dialogues, and marketplace activities. The indicators have been added to the Results Framework (see Table 13, Outcome 3).

249. Additionally, the programme measures participation levels in webinars, open innovation sessions, learning events, and policy dialogues and self-perceived knowledge improved reported by the participants.
250. Tracking and aggregation: these indicators will be standardized and integrated into FONTAGRO's digital monitoring and reporting system to allow consistent tracking across innovation pathways, countries, and projects. At the programme level, reach and uptake information will be captured through platform analytics, event records, stakeholder feedback, follow-up documentation, and evidence of replication or piloting, and will be aggregated in the digital monitoring platform. The PMU will review uptake indicators periodically to assess which knowledge products and dissemination approaches are generating the greatest influence, and the findings will inform adaptive management of the Programme's knowledge management strategy and Adaptation Fund reporting..
251. The uptake indicators will be reviewed periodically at programme level by the PMU to assess which products and approaches are generating the greatest influence. Findings will inform adaptive management to knowledge management strategies and will be reflected in progress reports, and Adaptation Fund reporting, ensuring that KM efforts contribute demonstrably to efficient adaptation solutions.

J. Stakeholder Consultative Processes

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

252. The Programme has been designed in consultation with internal teams from FONTAGRO and CAF, as well as relevant experts in various fields such as innovation, climate finance, and agriculture. These consultations helped identify lessons learned from previous processes. Additionally, consultations were held with research and rural development centres such as the National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Argentina (INTA), Zamorano University in Honduras, producer associations such as the National Federation of Farmers and Ranchers of Honduras (FENAC), which represents more than 60% of rural producers, and the Union of Land Workers of Argentina (UTT) with over 25,000 associated producers, as well as the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero, Argentina (MOCASE). Most of these organizations have extensive experience working in the agricultural sector and in innovation and have strongly supported the Programme concept, recognizing the need for innovation in climate change adaptation. The highlighted needs — adequate financing, specialized technical assistance, greater inclusion of women and youth, and more robust mechanisms for dissemination and scaling — were key inputs for the design of the Programme. Annex VI includes the Stakeholder Consultation Report of the design-stage process, including the November–December 2025 virtual consultations, the May–June 2026 expanded review meetings, stakeholder groups and named participants, consultation methods, principal feedback, and the corresponding programme-design responses.
253. The consultative process planned for implementation will be inclusive, participatory, and sensitive to the diverse realities of countries and communities in LAC, with a particular emphasis on the participation of vulnerable groups and the integration of gender considerations. As part of the call for proposals, applicants will be required to document consultations with local stakeholders and demonstrate how these consultations contributed to the definition of the project proposal. Consultation reports will be attached to the application forms, and the selection criteria will explicitly consider the inclusion of vulnerable groups and gender equity. The launch webinar will include a specific session on "Inclusive Stakeholder Participation," which will be part of the co-design training with project managers.
254. The co-design phase will require the active participation of communities, supported by letters of commitment and the formation of consortia to ensure their involvement in the definition, validation, and adjustment of the proposed solutions. This iterative process will ensure that the interventions are culturally and territorially appropriate, equitable, and effective. Pre-selected proponents will need to consult with communities and relevant local institutions and reflect these contributions in their final proposals. Additionally, each beneficiary will develop a simple gender action plan, with support and guidance from the PMU.
255. Starting from the third year, the Programme will promote engagement with greater participation from external stakeholders through open and hybrid innovation sessions aimed at integrating additional actors from the agro-climatic ecosystem. These may include government entities, research centres, international specialists, producer organizations, NGOs, and thematic associations, fostering the exchange and feedback on the conditions necessary to scale effective climate innovations.
256. During project implementation, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will provide continuous technical feedback to ensure that gender, youth, human rights, and social inclusion dimensions are integrated across all stages of the project lifecycle. Finally, the Programme will conduct systematic monitoring using gender- and vulnerability-disaggregated indicators, ensuring the measurement of equitable impact and the continuous improvement of participation processes.
257. Stakeholder engagement for Science–Community Partnership subprojects will follow the structured framework established in Section 11 of the Programme ESMS (Annex II). The framework defines stakeholder engagement

requirements throughout the subproject lifecycle, including consultation timing, responsible actors, minimum consultation events, documentation and disclosure requirements, participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, gender-responsive and culturally appropriate engagement methods, feedback and grievance mechanisms, and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) where Indigenous Peoples may be affected. These requirements are applied proportionally according to the environmental and social risk category assigned to each subproject, with the PMU overseeing implementation and Science–Community Partnerships responsible for conducting stakeholder engagement activities in accordance with the ESMS.

K. Incorporating Multi-Stakeholder Views on Innovation in Context

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

258. Innovation is fundamental for the transformation of the agricultural sector, and in particular, food systems. However, innovations in agriculture and food systems differ from those in other sectors, largely due to ecological interactions, social relationships, and the local context in which they develop. Likewise, innovation in agri-food systems depends on interactions among numerous actors and institutions along the food production and supply chains, including farmers and their cooperatives, policymakers, research institutions, government agencies, and consumers; it involves a dynamic learning process.
259. In this regard, the Programme has been designed taking into account the multiple barriers that producers in the region face in transitioning toward more resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, as well as the asymmetries and varying capacities that countries have in terms of innovation. These differences include the presence of an enabling environment for innovation (technical capacities of professionals, policies or regulations, available infrastructure, institutional quality, among others) and the composition of agricultural systems in each country (farm size, agricultural productivity, access to technology and knowledge, financial support, governance mechanisms, among others).
260. Through the integration of its different components, the Programme aims to provide small and medium producers with multiple pathways to develop and adopt innovative practices, through inclusive participation and dialogue among multiple actors, facilitating access to knowledge and resources. In addition, the Programme encourages participants or project proponents to consider the various external processes that may, deliberately or inadvertently, affect agricultural systems, such as climate change, environmental degradation, gender inequality, digital barriers, institutional fragmentation (public sector, private sector, NGOs, research institutes, producer associations, others), and changes in consumption patterns or demand for certain foods (shifts in lifestyles—health and diet—, rising consumer incomes, and population growth).
261. Through strategic Science–Community partnerships, the Programme places strong emphasis on the co-creation of adaptation measures originating from producers, who serve as the central actors and primary generators of applied knowledge. Holistically, the Programme promotes the inclusion of vulnerable groups, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples as agents of change across agricultural systems—not only in field production but also at the political level as decision-makers and in research and development areas.

L. Justification of Full Cost Adaptation Reasoning

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

262. The design of the Programme has been carefully developed in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's principle of "full cost of adaptation," ensuring that the proposed activities generate adaptation results autonomously and without reliance on external sources of financing. Particular attention was given to avoiding duplication and maximizing complementarity with existing regional initiatives, guaranteeing that each intervention directly contributes to reducing climate vulnerability in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors.
263. Likewise, the Programme's formulation incorporated cost-efficiency criteria, optimizing resource use by leveraging the well-established institutional structures of FONTAGRO and CAF for both technical management and administrative and fiduciary processes. Although co-financing is not required under the Fund's mandate, the Programme will benefit from institutional in-kind contributions, including the allocation of technical and operational staff time from FONTAGRO for execution, supervision, and support to beneficiary partnerships. This contribution strengthens the Programme's sustainability, expands its technical support capacity, and adds value to implementation without affecting the principle of full adaptation cost financing.
264. Below are the scenarios with and without the project for each component.

Component 1

265. **Baseline:** Many agricultural, forestry, and fisheries producer associations and innovative projects in the region do not independently access conventional financing, as they are often perceived as risky, nascent, or outside the scope of existing financial instruments. At the same time, numerous research institutions generate high-potential technologies and solutions but face structural and financial constraints that limit their ability to bring these results into the field and consolidate adoption and scaling models with producers and rural communities. This restricts the capacity to validate, implement, or expand innovative climate adaptation solutions in the agri-food sector.
266. **With AF funds:** A key adaptive investment gap is addressed through the design and implementation of a regional financial and technical support mechanism that will enable the identification, selection, financing, testing, and scaling of at least 20 innovative, locally led solutions that strengthen climate resilience through partnerships of local actors.

Component 2

267. **Baseline:** In the absence of a coordinated strategy, local actors work in a fragmented manner. National and regional institutions have limited capacity to articulate efforts, build partnerships, and promote cooperation that would enable progress in designing, financing, and scaling climate innovation projects—particularly those targeting small producers. As a result, isolated interventions prevail, failing to generate synergies or facilitate the exchange of learning, thereby reducing the impact and effectiveness of adaptation actions on the ground.
268. **With AF funds:** Smooth technical coordination will be ensured, contributing to increased awareness, sensitization, and capacity building among local producers in climate-vulnerable communities, research institutions, and other key regional actors. Continuous technical assistance and structured spaces for collaboration and learning will be provided to facilitate the adoption of innovative solutions and strengthen the adaptive capacity of climate-vulnerable communities. This support will help build a more cohesive ecosystem capable of sustaining innovation and resilience processes over the long term.

Component 3

269. **Baseline:** There is limited understanding of climate change and its risks among producers, institutions, and supporting actors. Opportunities to learn about innovative solutions, draw from other experiences, and adopt best practices are scarce and unsystematic, limiting the ability to design effective policies, investments, and programmes.
270. **With AF funds:** Through an enhanced open-access platform, the Programme will generate learning, systematize experiences, and utilize all information produced to promote regional knowledge exchange and the dissemination of adaptive best practices. Dialogue spaces and joint monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities will be carried out with FONTAGRO's technical network, improving the quality, effectiveness, and scalability potential of the funded projects.

M. Sustainability

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

271. The sustainability of the programme and its projects is integrated from the design stage, ensuring that results and benefits endure beyond the funding period and can be scaled. To achieve this, the programme considers institutional, financial, technical, and social dimensions in a coordinated manner. Additionally, among the selection criteria, priority is given to projects that present a sustainability and scaling plan.
272. Sustainability is explicitly **assessed and scored at Stage 2 of the selection and evaluation framework**. Minimum sustainability provisions will be required from all projects financed by the programme, proportionate to innovation stage and scale, and will be set out in the Call Guidelines. These minimum sustainability provisions are assessed primarily under 'Sustainability, scalability and replication potential', while institutional readiness and continuity enablers are also reflected in 'Institutional and technical team capacity & alignment' and 'Capacity building, training strategy'.
273. At a minimum, projects financed by the programme will be required to submit an initial **sustainability plan** that includes: (i) technical sustainability, through a basic operation and maintenance (O&M) plan appropriate to the technology/practice being piloted, including responsibilities, required skills, and indicative post-grant costs; (ii) institutional sustainability, by identifying at least one local or national institution (e.g., producer organization, research institute, extension service, cooperative, private operator, or local authority) with a defined role in hosting, supporting, or championing the innovation beyond the grant period; and (iii) human and organizational capacity, through targeted training and knowledge-transfer activities enabling local actors (including vulnerable groups, where relevant) to operate, adapt, and/or replicate the solution

- after project closure. In addition, proposals will outline a credible continuation pathway—such as integration into existing programmes, private-sector uptake, and/or replication through regional platforms supported by the programme.
274. These minimum requirements are operationalized through two mechanisms. First, 'Sustainability, scalability and replication potential' and 'Capacity building, training strategy' together account for 7.5 points in the Stage 2 evaluation matrix (Annex V), making sustainability a substantive selection criterion. Second, the FONTAGRO Call Guidelines will include a dedicated sustainability section in the application form requiring each proposal to describe concrete mechanisms — appropriate to the type and scale of the innovation — to ensure continuation, institutional ownership, or maintenance of results beyond the grant period. Projects reaching the acceleration phase will additionally receive targeted PMU support to refine their sustainability plans, including post-grant O&M cost estimates and institutional hosting arrangements. Progress in implementing the sustainability plan will be tracked through the standardized reporting framework and will inform scale-up readiness assessment under Subactivity 3.1.3a.
275. In this way, **technical and operational sustainability** will be ensured through the identification, validation, and strengthening of projects that demonstrate particularly promising results, with evidence-based innovative solutions and high potential for replicability and scalability. These solutions will be evaluated in real-world contexts during the acceleration phase, documenting results and lessons learned to facilitate their adaptation and adoption in different territories. Through Component 3, replicable models, lessons, and evidence will be systematized for use by communities, institutions, and development agencies.
276. **Financial sustainability** relies on the demonstrative value of small grants and the validated adaptive models they generate. The programme operationalizes investment mobilization through a structured, lifecycle-based approach that engages potential financing partners throughout implementation — not only at programme close.
277. Scale-up readiness screening is conducted at two moments: at mid-term and prior to project completion. Agreed criteria include technical viability, evidence of beneficiary demand, cost-effectiveness trajectory, and social inclusion outcomes. Projects meeting the threshold at either point become eligible for differentiated support, which includes: business model refinement; financial structuring guidance aligned with the requirements of development finance institutions and national climate funds; investor matchmaking through the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace (Activity 2.1.3); and preparation of documentation packages for the Adaptation Fund's Large Projects or Innovation Programmes. In addition, Subactivity 3.1.3.a will provide incentives and a scale-up pipeline by competitively identifying successful cases with scaling potential and supporting their promotion for replication and follow-on financing (including targeted knowledge products and the identification of relevant funding sources and calls).
278. The PMU plays an active brokering role throughout systematically mapping relevant funding opportunities across CAF member countries, matching specific projects to identified calls as they advance, and leveraging CAF's institutional relationships with development finance institutions, IICA's national networks, and FONTAGRO's digital platform to generate investor-ready pitching materials. Potential financing partners — including NDAs, multilateral entities, and private actors — are engaged from year one through innovation sessions (Activity 2.1.2) and knowledge exchange events (Activity 3.1.2), ensuring early visibility before scale-up conversations begin.
279. **Table 8** below summarizes the financing support mechanisms deployed at each programme lifecycle stage

Table 8. Financing support mechanisms by programme lifecycle stage

Incubation	4–5	PMU mapping of funding opportunities; value proposition capacity building (Activity 2.1.2); engagement of NDAs and NIEs; baseline cost-effectiveness documentation (Activity 3.1.1)
Acceleration / piloting	6–7	Mid-term scale-up readiness screening; innovation sessions with external actors and potential partners (Activity 2.1.2); sustainability plan refinement (Activity 2.1.1); initial matching with funding opportunities
Pre-completion / validation	7–8	Second scale-up readiness screening; competitive selection of high-performing cases (Subactivity 3.1.3a); Science–Community Partnership Marketplace — investor matchmaking event; financial structuring and pitching packages (Activity 2.1.3); submission to AF Large Projects
Post-grant / scale-up	8–9	Knowledge products and policy briefs promoting replication (Subactivities 3.1.2b and 3.1.3b); identification of follow-on calls (Subactivity 3.1.3b); recognition award to top innovations (Subactivity 3.1.3a)

280. Realistic success rates for securing follow-on financing are expected to remain in the 20–30% range, consistent with global innovation accelerator benchmarks, as acknowledged in the programme's risk management section.
281. In terms of **institutional sustainability**, the programme will strengthen the technical and organizational capacities of key actors in the agricultural ecosystem in LAC, including communities and producer associations, public institutions, and research centres, among others. By empowering these actors in the design and implementation of adaptation solutions, it ensures that capacities remain within the territories and can sustain and expand interventions once funding ends.
282. Finally, social sustainability will be promoted through local ownership from the outset, ensuring that solutions respond to concrete needs and are co-created with producers from climate-vulnerable communities. This will strengthen the cultural and social relevance of interventions and foster their continuity over time. Priority will be given to the leadership of vulnerable groups—particularly women and youth—in the implementation and dissemination of innovative practices. A community-centred, locally led adaptation approach is key to ensuring the accessibility, legitimacy, and long-term sustainability of solutions beyond programme support.

N. Environmental and Social Impact and Risk

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

283. The Programme and its activities have undergone a preliminary environmental and social risk assessment against the 15 principles established in the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, as presented in the table below. The complete risk screening questionnaire, together with the corresponding mitigation measures, is provided in Annex II of this proposal.
284. Based on the preliminary risk assessment, the Programme has been classified as Category B risk (see Annex II, Classification Section). The identified risk level is mainly due to the fact that most activities cannot be specified or assessed at this stage. Climate innovation initiatives are considered Unidentified Subprojects (USPs) and will be identified and selected at the outset of the proposed Climate Innovation Acceleration Programme. Once the nature of the innovations and their implementation contexts are known, the applicable risk level for each innovation and context will be determined. Therefore, this risk assessment is conducted at the programmatic level, considering risks and provisions within the scope of the ESMP. Each selected initiative entering the climate accelerator will carry out its own environmental and social risk assessment and develop the corresponding mitigation measures.
285. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), together with the Grievance Mechanism, is included in Annex II in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's requirements. At the programmatic level, the ESMP provides mechanisms to track identified risks, as well as any new risks, ensuring that they are properly assessed, monitored, reported, and addressed. The ESMP will be reviewed at a later stage based on the risk assessments of the USPs and will continue to be further developed throughout programme implementation.

Table 9. Programme Environmental and Social Risks

AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
1. Compliance with the Law	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring, periodic compliance checks, and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use, and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process during the subproject selection phase. The AFCIA–CAF evaluation, selection, and technical support mechanisms ensure that projects comply with national regulatory requirements from design through implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licenses, permits, and relevant controls. In addition, the institutional capacity-building measures envisaged under the Programme contribute to the consistent and robust application of regulations across different national contexts. The Programme will conduct periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants will be required to demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks at the project design stage (Component 1). In cases of identified non-compliance with national regulations or any environmental and social safeguards during project execution, the PMU will work closely with the partnership to implement a graduated management process focused on corrective

AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		support and timely resolution, guided by three specific pathways: progression, adaptation, or discontinuation, as detailed in Section 10 of this ESMS.
2. Access and Equity	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.</i>	Moderate risk. Systemic inequities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making, and services for women may create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. While the Programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a particular focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that structural exclusion may persist (e.g., women-led organizations). The Programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation mechanisms and targeted outreach actions for women's groups. Mitigation measures: Apply inclusive selection criteria that give weight to partnerships led by women, youth, and representatives of Indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1). An explicit commitment to ensure that information and communication channels are available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with interpretation support provided where appropriate.
3. Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.</i>	Moderate risk. Vulnerable groups—including young women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and subsistence rural households—face compounded disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. These vulnerabilities are recognized in the Gender Analysis in Annex IV, particularly in relation to informal economies, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and differentiated impacts of extreme climate events. While the Programme integrates safeguards and seeks to include diverse participants in innovation design and implementation, there remains a risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion without sustained, targeted support. Mitigation measures: Applicants must demonstrate inclusive engagement, include vulnerability-disaggregated indicators (primarily by gender, Indigenous status, and age, while remaining open to other characteristics), and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation panel identifying inclusion gaps and risks. Activities may include care services to reduce participation barriers and enable effective engagement (Components 1 and 2).
4. Human Rights	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme adopts a human right based and people-centred approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association, and equitable access to programme benefits for smallholders, rural communities, and other stakeholders. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. The programme will ensure respect for human rights through mandatory safeguards screening and monitoring through the ESMP. Projects (Component 1) will integrate, from the design stage, principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Component 2 will provide technical support in safeguards and gender to strengthen risk identification and management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
5. Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.</i>	Moderate risk. While the Programme integrates a gender approach, varying capacities among stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. This risk is mitigated through a structured Gender Action Plan, targeted technical support and mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation but also benefits, leadership, and influence. Mitigation measures: Evaluate proposals using criteria that prioritize gender equity and women's leadership; require gender analysis and Gender Action Plans in all proposals; prioritize initiatives led by women researchers, extension agents, and producers (Component 1); provide technical assistance for gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment (Component 2); monitor gender-specific results; and highlight successful innovations benefiting rural women through gender-sensitive communication products (Component 3).
6. Core Labour Rights	Complies.	The Programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and ILO core labour standards. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS

AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	screening process. Regular monitoring will verify compliance with national labour legislation and ILO fundamental labour standards across all projects. Proposal screening (Component 1) will ensure that labour requirements are integrated at the design stage and that employment conditions comply with applicable national regulations. Safeguards monitoring through the ESMP will oversee implementation. Component 2 will provide technical support to ensure proper integration and effective application of labour standards throughout project execution.
7. Indigenous Peoples	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, mandatory Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols, and subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.	Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. The Programme recognizes the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where many Indigenous peoples maintain distinct identities, governance systems, territories, and cultural practices. Science–Community Partnerships innovation processes may involve Indigenous organizations, communities, or territories. Participation of Indigenous peoples is voluntary and will occur through inclusive co-design processes with explicit consent mechanisms. However, in diverse sociocultural contexts, there is a risk that Indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during project formulation. Mitigation measures: Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1); ensure cultural appropriateness of support and capacity-building processes through the technical team (Component 2).
8. Involuntary Resettlement	Complies. No additional assessment is required as compliance is guaranteed through mandatory exclusion at the screening stage	Complies through exclusion. Any subproject involving involuntary physical or economic displacement is classified as Category A and is strictly excluded from financing at the Stage 1 eligibility check; establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3).
9. Protection of Natural Habitats	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Projects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure no adverse impacts on flora, fauna, or sensitive ecosystems. Mitigation measures: Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); incorporate specific measures in ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2).
10. Conservation of Biological Diversity	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Projects will align with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. ESIA/ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, such as avoiding installations affecting bird nesting areas, native vegetation, wetlands, or mangrove ecosystems. Mitigation measures: Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); require site-specific environmental assessments (ESIA/ESMP) for subprojects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
11. Climate Change	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects.	The Programme focuses on climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts, and other hazards. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process during the subproject selection phase. Agroforestry or agricultural projects will be small-scale and subject to exclusion criteria preventing significant adverse impacts.

AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
12. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, mandatory subproject-level ESMPs, and continuous monitoring.	Moderate risk. Construction-related activities may generate waste, noise, dust, or minor pollution if not properly managed. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient resource use. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy, and materials. Mitigation measures: Require simple waste management plans where applicable (Component 1); verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
13. Public Health	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Potential impacts and risks will be formally assessed through subproject-level screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. The programme will prevent public health risks through safeguards screening and the integration of preventive measures into the ESMP. Projects will align with national regulations and good public health practices from Component 1; Component 2 will provide technical support to strengthen health risk management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
14. Physical and Cultural Heritage	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Programme and project activities are not expected to take place in areas containing physical or cultural heritage, nor will they restrict community access to such resources. Design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage, or removal of recognized cultural assets. ESS screening will identify nearby heritage sites; if present, a risk analysis will be conducted and mitigation measures defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders. Mitigation measures: Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and potential impacts (Component 1); exclude projects that could damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1 – exclusion list).
15. Lands and Soil Conservation	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, land-use exclusion criteria, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.	Moderate risk. The Programme promotes sustainable soil conservation approaches in land-related interventions. Although exclusion criteria apply to activities involving intensive land use, minor risks may arise from small-scale installations (e.g., building improvements, water tanks). Site-specific assessments and periodic ESS monitoring will be conducted, particularly for infrastructure and WASH activities, incorporating ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts. Mitigation measures: Promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during proposal co-development (Component 1); apply safeguard assessments and monitoring for projects with potential soil impacts (Component 3).

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

O.A. Arrangements for Project Implementation

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

CAF's Comparative Advantage

286. CAF has a solid track record as a strategic partner in financing and implementing sustainable development programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Its established technical presence in 21 member countries, together with its comprehensive operational capacity—from project design to execution and monitoring—position it as a key regional actor. Accredited as a Regional Implementing Entity by the Adaptation Fund since March 2014, and also by other international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), CAF has demonstrated robust fiduciary, environmental, and social capacities, making it a suitable entity to channel climate finance toward innovative and transformative solutions.
287. In the field of sustainable finance, CAF succeeded in 2024 in converting 41% of its portfolio into green investments, reaching a consolidated portfolio of over USD 34 billion directed toward ecosystem protection, resilient infrastructure, marine conservation, and climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. In that same year, USD 15.787 billion were approved for sustainable development in the region, of which USD 7.094 billion were allocated to strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, improving access to finance for SMEs, and fostering sustainable investments.
288. In the area of climate adaptation, CAF manages emblematic projects in river basins, coastal cities, and transboundary ecosystems, acting as an implementing entity for both the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. CAF has developed initiatives in countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Its technical and institutional approach includes strong experience in environmental and social safeguards aligned with the international standards of both funds.
289. Between 2014 and 2024, CAF allocated USD 1.808 billion in credit operations, equity investments, and technical cooperation to promote a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector. These actions included corporate loans, credit lines to financial institutions, and the management of international funds such as the GEF and the GCF, totalling USD 140 million. As a result, the incomes of at least 550,000 families and 210,000 agricultural producers in the region improved. Greater access to finance and to sustainable technologies was fostered, along with increased availability of inputs, stronger value-chain integration, and the adoption of climate-resilient practices such as efficient water use, seed genetic improvement, and producer certification. CAF has also announced an investment of USD 8.5 billion through 2030 to advance agricultural prosperity with a sustainable, resilient, and regenerative approach, consolidating its role as a key financial driver of the sector in the region.
290. In the field of innovation, incubation, and acceleration, CAF reaffirms its commitment to technological and business development through the promotion of innovation ecosystems aimed at competitiveness and sustainability. By supporting startups, venture funds, and collaborative projects, CAF fosters the growth of high-impact strategic sectors.
291. CAF launched InNatureLab, together with LATIMPACTO and the Trafigura Foundation, a programme that supports innovative bioeconomy solutions through financial and non-financial assistance. This open innovation and co-creation laboratory includes the participation of vulnerable local communities in strategic ecosystems, promoting sustainable development models.
292. In partnership with the GCF, CAF implements the Green MSMEs LAC programme, which helps small and medium-sized enterprises in Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru transition to more sustainable practices. The programme is expected to benefit over 1,200 MSMEs with green financing, generate more than 5,000 green jobs, and train 720 MSMEs, 39% of which are expected to be women-led. The programme offers attractive financial conditions—such as concessional rates and grace periods—facilitating investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable land use. Technical assistance is also provided to identify projects, measure GHG emissions, and strengthen environmental and social risk management (SARAS) and gender strategies.
293. CAF also promotes financial education and inclusion programmes. To date, an estimated 7.7 million people and 55,024 micro and small enterprises have benefited from financial inclusion projects, and over 19 million people from financial education initiatives. The Financial Inclusion Lab (LIF 2024) stands out to support technological solutions—such as artificial intelligence—to close financial inclusion gaps. In its sixth edition, the LIF received 219 applications, evaluated 93 proposals, and selected 8 winners, with an estimated impact of more than 31,000 underserved people and 8,190 MSMEs.
294. CAF possesses key institutional advantages: a regional structure that facilitates coordination across multiple countries; a multidisciplinary technical approach integrating social, environmental, and productive dimensions; and the ability to mobilize complementary financial resources, both public and private. Its role as a supranational institution uniquely positions it to foster South-South cooperation, scale up learnings, and replicate innovative solutions at the regional level. In 2024, CAF reaffirmed its commitment to biodiversity through strategic partnerships and new initiatives, consolidating its role as a regional facilitator in the environmental agenda.
295. Within the AFCIA programme, CAF's participation as an accredited entity will enable effective coordination across sectors and countries, connect local innovators with climate finance opportunities, and ensure an efficient, inclusive, and results-based implementation. This will strengthen scalability, sustainability, and the transformative impact of the proposed programme.

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

296. IICA and FONTAGRO maintain a consolidated and complementary institutional relationship. IICA serves as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat of FONTAGRO, providing technical, operational and fiduciary support. IICA is responsible for the financial administration and technical management of FONTAGRO projects, while FONTAGRO leads the technical management of regional initiatives. This collaboration has proven effective in the joint implementation of agricultural innovation and climate adaptation projects across Latin America and the Caribbean.
297. FONTAGRO and IICA are ideal strategic partners for the execution of the AFCIA programme. FONTAGRO brings more than two decades of experience in financing and coordinating agricultural research and innovation consortia with a regional, multisectoral, and results-oriented approach. IICA, for its part, has an extensive track record in the implementation of large-scale programmes, with territorial presence in all countries of the region, strong technical capacities, and a broad cooperation network involving governments, research centres, producers, and grassroots organizations.
298. Both partners share a vision centred on transforming agrifood systems with equity, resilience, and sustainability. They have operational mechanisms for fiduciary management, social and environmental safeguards, and impact monitoring, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and alignment with the standards of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.
299. FONTAGRO has the following strengths relevant to the programme:
- Effective presence in territories and communities vulnerable to climate risk (e.g., Indigenous communities in the Southern Cone).
 - Ability to connect science, local communities, and public institutions, generating tangible impact.
 - Proven participatory innovation models adapted to local and cultural contexts.
 - Established networks of scientific and productive cooperation, backed by technical expertise and collaborative financing.
300. IICA is the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for Agriculture and Rural Development, with more than 80 years of experience and permanent presence in the 34 member countries of the Americas. Its mission is to support Member States in achieving sustainable agricultural development, food security, and climate resilience through technical cooperation, innovation, and coordination among agricultural sector stakeholders.
301. The Institute has extensive experience in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of regional projects, working with governments, international organizations, producer associations, research centres, and rural communities. It possesses multidisciplinary technical capacities, knowledge networks, regional platforms, and mechanisms to ensure compliance with environmental, social, and fiduciary standards, in accordance with the requirements of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.
302. In addition, IICA promotes the transformation of agrifood systems with an emphasis on sustainability, inclusion, and climate adaptation, facilitating participatory innovation processes and institutional strengthening across the continent.

Institutional structure

303. The programme will be implemented through an institutional structure that brings together the Implementing Entity (IE), the Executing Entity (EE), the Programme Management Unit (PMU), and a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will serve as the Programme's strategic governance body and, for the purposes of the AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO call, will also perform the Programme Governance Committee functions required to ensure alignment with FONTAGRO's governance structure and competitive call procedures. This arrangement ensures strategic coordination, technical soundness, and compliance with Adaptation Fund policies. In addition, the proposed structure aligns with international best practices in innovation incubation and acceleration, ensuring clear roles, transparent decision-making processes, and an efficient, results-oriented operation (See Figure 6).

Implementing Entity (IE): CAF

304. CAF will act as the Implementing Entity (IE) before the Adaptation Fund and will be responsible for:
- the overall supervision of the programme,
 - compliance with fiduciary, environmental, social, and gender policies,
 - validation of milestones and reports,
 - formal liaison with the Adaptation Fund.
305. CAF will also participate in the strategic governance of the programme.
306. In accordance with Adaptation Fund guidelines, CAF will coordinate the contracting of the mid-term evaluation and the final evaluation of the programme. These evaluations will be carried out by independent external entities and are mandatory requirements of the Fund to ensure quality, learning, and accountability.

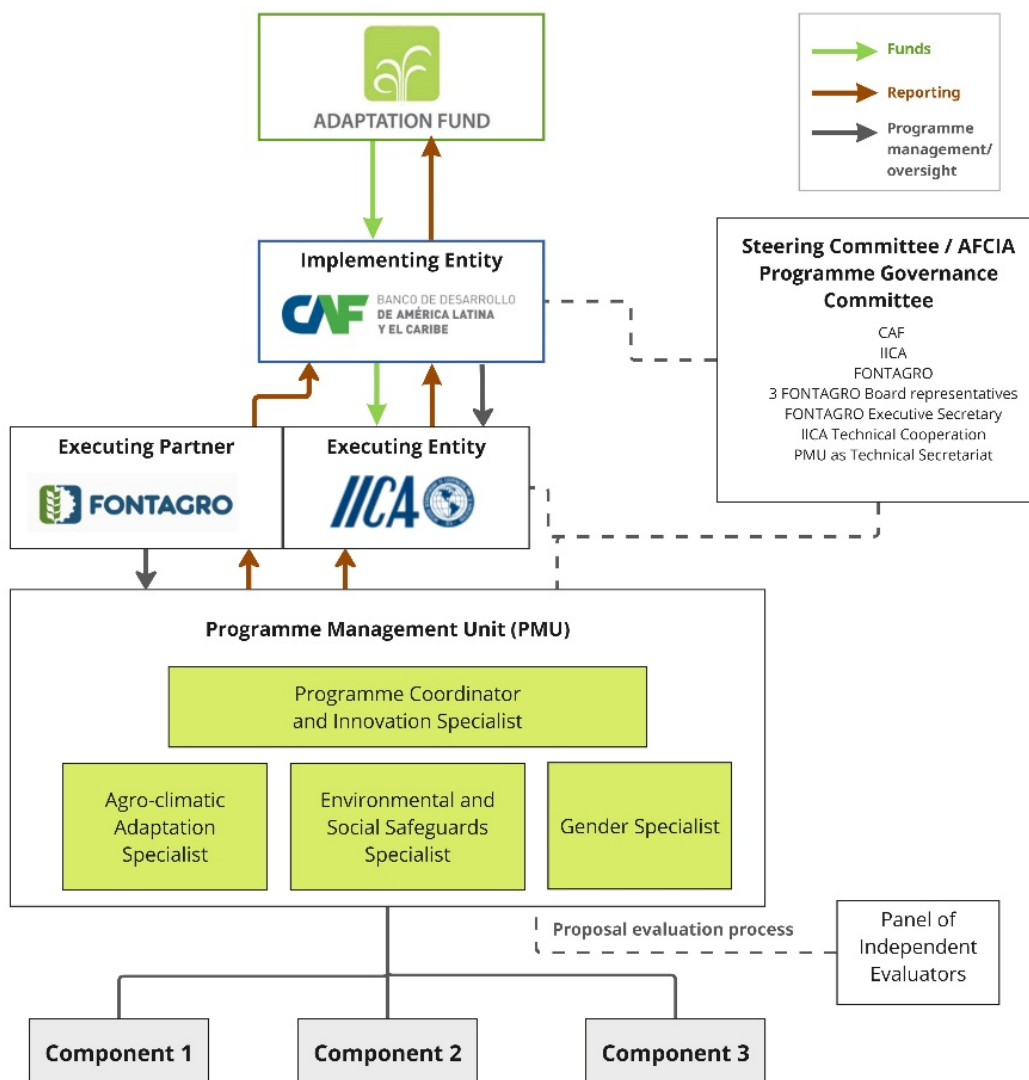
Executing Entity (EE): IICA

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

Executing Partner: FONTAGRO

308. FONTAGRO, as a mechanism hosted within IICA, will serve as the Executing Partner and will lead the technical execution of the programme and it will operate under the current guidelines established by the FONTAGRO Steering Council, the Inter-American Development Bank, and IICA.

Figure 6. Institutional structure of the programme.



Roles of IICA and FONTAGRO

309. IICA, as the Executing Entity, has administrative and fiduciary responsibility and also co-executes and supports the technical activities and will:

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

310. FONTAGRO, as the technical lead and in coordination with IICA, will be responsible for:
- the technical direction of the programme.
 - the design and management of competitive calls for proposals.
 - technical support to the partnerships.
 - the integration and monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards.
 - knowledge management and dissemination of results.
311. CAF, as the Implementing Entity, will receive the grant resources from the Adaptation Fund and retain overall fiduciary responsibility, financial oversight, and reporting obligations to the Fund. IICA, as the Executing Entity, will be responsible for the operational execution of program activities under a formal agreement with CAF, budget including execution, contracting, and coordination with national partners.
312. FONTAGRO does not receive administrative or management fees directly from CAF or IICA. FONTAGRO's role is to provide technical support to IICA's implementation, including support for call design, evaluation processes, monitoring frameworks, and knowledge management, drawing on its existing institutional platforms and expertise. Any costs associated with FONTAGRO's technical support functions are explicitly budgeted within program components, are activity-based, and are embedded within IICA's execution budget, ensuring full transparency and traceability.
313. No parallel structures are created, and no overlapping management fees are charged across administrative institutions. Financial arrangements are governed by clearly defined scopes of work, detailed budgets, and reporting requirements, which are subject to CAF's fiduciary oversight and audit procedures.

Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO Governance Alignment

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

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

Composition of the PMU

315. The PMU will be composed of:
- Programme Coordinator and Innovation Specialist (combined role): leads the programme, coordinates the technical team, and also assumes monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions. Serves as the methodological lead for incubation and acceleration.
 - Agro-climatic Adaptation Specialist
 - Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist
 - Gender Specialist
316. The PMU will be supported by IICA Administration and Finance staff.
317. The PMU specialists will provide cross-cutting technical assistance to beneficiary partnerships throughout all phases of the programme. Their responsibilities include:
- preparing Terms of Reference (ToR) for calls and evaluations.
 - developing technical guidelines, manuals, and methodological tools.
 - designing and delivering webinars, virtual workshops, and orientation sessions.
 - providing technical support to selected projects on climate, environmental, social, gender, and innovation topics.
 - supporting information consolidation for programme monitoring.
 - coordinating with IICA's technical staff and national offices involved in country-level execution.
 - contributing to knowledge management and the generation of learning products.
318. The Programme Coordinator–Innovation Specialist will lead planning, indicator tracking, report consolidation, and the strategic coordination of the PMU with CAF and relevant IICA departments.
319. The PMU will implement technical monitoring through FONTAGRO's monitoring platform, which integrates progress indicators as well as social, environmental, and gender indicators.

Programme Steering Committee / AFCIA Programme Governance Committee

320. The Programme Steering Committee will serve as the Programme's strategic governance body and, for the purposes of the AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO call, will ensure alignment with FONTAGRO's governance structure and competitive call procedures, as established in the FONTAGRO Operations Manual.
321. The Steering Committee will include representatives of CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO. In line with FONTAGRO's recommendation, it will also include three representatives of FONTAGRO's Board of Directors — one from the Andean

Region, one from Central America and the Caribbean, and one from the Southern Cone — as well as FONTAGRO's Executive Secretary and one representative from IICA's Technical Cooperation area. The PMU Coordinator will serve as Technical Secretariat.

322. The Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance, approve the Terms of Reference of the call, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, and approve the composition and profiles of the independent External Evaluation Panel. The Panel will review, score, rank, and recommend eligible proposals, but will not adopt financing decisions.
323. The final decision on the innovation projects to be financed will be adopted jointly by the Programme Steering Committee and FONTAGRO, based on the technical recommendations of the External Evaluation Panel and subject to completion of the required eligibility, safeguards, fiduciary, and operational checks.
324. Following the final financing decision, IICA will proceed with the applicable agreement, procurement, contracting, and/or execution arrangements in accordance with IICA and FONTAGRO procedures. CAF will retain overall oversight and report responsibilities to the Adaptation Fund.

Call for Proposals and Evaluation Processes

325. Eligibility screening: Conducted by the PMU, including verification of formal, institutional, geographic, and strategic alignment criteria.
326. Independent technical evaluation: Eligible proposals will be assessed by a competitively selected panel of external evaluators.
327. Depending on the number of project proposals received, each evaluator will review approximately 35 proposals, assessing:
 - technical and climate relevance, consistent with the Adaptation Fund criteria for innovation in adaptation.
 - environmental and social safeguards.
 - gender approach.
 - methodological and operational viability.
328. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflict of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary.
329. The External Evaluation Panel will not adopt financing decisions. Its role will be to review, score, rank, and recommend proposals. The final financing decision will be adopted jointly by the Programme Steering Committee and FONTAGRO, based on the Panel's consolidated evaluation report and subject to completion of the required eligibility, safeguards, fiduciary, and operational checks.

Relationship with Beneficiary Partnerships

330. No direct disbursements will be made to partnerships.
331. Instead, IICA will carry out the procurement and contracting necessary for the execution of approved activities, strengthening fiduciary controls and reducing risks.

Partnerships will receive continuous technical support from the PMU.

332. Regional Coordination and Engagement with National Institutions
333. Regional coherence is ensured through common call guidelines, standardized screening and evaluation criteria, shared technical assistance, and a unified monitoring platform managed by the PMU and FONTAGRO. This enables cross-country learning, comparability of results, and identification of scalable adaptation solutions.
334. At country level, implementation is carried out through Science–Community Partnerships composed of national research institutions, producer organizations, and relevant local actors. This embeds innovations within existing national ecosystems and supports alignment with nationally identified adaptation priorities.
335. Engagement with national authorities, including NDAs and, where relevant, NIEs, will occur through call dissemination and participation in knowledge-sharing and scaling activities under Component 3. Such engagement will be consultative and non-binding, preserving the independence of the technical evaluation and selection process.

P.B. Financial and project/programme risk management

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

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

Table 10. Financial and Project Risk Management Framework

Risk category	Risk description	Initial Risk		Proposed Mitigation measures
		Probability	Impact	
Operational	Risk of insufficient participation in the regional call for proposals	Low	High	To mitigate the risk of low participation, an outreach and applicant mobilization strategy will be implemented at different stages: (i) pre-call, through early dissemination and awareness-raising actions led by CAF–IICA–FONTAGRO via their institutional channels and partners; (ii) during the call, through multi-channel outreach led by CAF (including CAF and IICA networks and the communication and outreach channels of national/subnational governments) and informational support to address questions and facilitate applications; and (iii) closing and last mile, through a final push and, if necessary, operational adjustments to broaden reach. As a second complementary resource, targeted outreach will be carried out to the FONTAGRO's pipeline and to networks of partners linked to innovation, incubation, and acceleration, to expand the pool of applicants while maintaining open and competitive criteria.
Operational	Limited proposal quality due to insufficient project formulation capacity among the Science–Community Partnerships.	Medium	Medium	The programme includes technical support for proposal development, guidance materials, and a helpdesk to assist all stakeholders. Component 2 will provide support for the development and strengthening of specific capacities for grantees and other stakeholders, in order to improve the co-design of innovation projects for adaptation.
Operational	Risk of exclusion of vulnerable producers, particularly women, during the design of climate innovation projects.	Medium	Medium	The Programme will work in partnership with territorial extension agencies to reach vulnerable producers through their existing networks. The technical capacities of extension agents will be strengthened to disseminate information about the calls for proposals. Where necessary, materials will be translated into relevant Indigenous languages. In addition, a Gender Action Plan will be required for each proposal.
Operational	Operational risk of delays in centralized procurement and contracting processes, which could affect the project implementation schedule.	Medium	Medium	Application of IICA's standardized procurement procedures. Early preparation of procurement plans for each subproject. Monthly monitoring of procurement progress by the PMU. Timely communication with suppliers and project teams to avoid bottlenecks.

Operational	Operational risk arising from variability in the administrative capacity of local organizations participating in the partnerships, which could lead to delays, administrative errors, or coordination challenges.	Medium	Medium	Continuous administrative technical assistance provided by the PMU. Use of standardized templates for planning, reporting, and documentation. Initial training for local organizations on the programme's operational procedures. Periodic supervision and close support during the initial months of implementation.
Strategic	High failure rate of innovative projects, particularly incubator stage grants	Medium	Medium	The programme explicitly anticipates and manages innovation risk; failure is treated as part of the learning cycle. Technical mentoring, iterative design processes and adaptive management will be embedded throughout implementation. A minimum TRL threshold will be required at entry , ensuring that supported concepts start from a relatively mature stage and reducing the likelihood of early technical failure. Learning from both success and failure will be systematically captured and shared through the programme's knowledge platform.
Strategic	Grantees fail in securing scale up and replication support and funding from other sources after the completion of the project	Medium	Medium	Acceleration and Amplification support will be provided only to proven concepts with demonstrated feasibility and adaptation potential. The programme will strengthen linkages with public institutions, private investors and regional initiatives to facilitate follow-on financing. The programme will support grantees in articulating business cases, scaling pathways and partnership strategies. With all support mechanisms considered, realistic success rates are expected to remain in the 20–30% range , consistent with global innovation accelerators.
Strategic	Risk of overlap or duplication with other climate innovation initiatives in the LAC region.	Medium	Low	Proposals will be cross-checked against FONTAGRO's database and other innovation funding sources and platforms in LAC. Applicants must declare any related funding in the pitch template.
Compliance	AF grants are used to support money laundering financing or prohibited practices.	Low	Medium	All activities will be carried out in accordance with the anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies and procedures established by the programme, CAF, and IICA to minimize these risks, including strong oversight, monitoring, and reporting practices. IICA, acting as the administrative and fiduciary executing entity, will conduct all procurement and contracting processes on behalf of the programme and will not make direct disbursements to beneficiary partnerships, significantly reducing fiduciary risks. Robust due diligence procedures will be applied to all grantees and partners, including

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

Q.C. Environmental and Social Risk Management

337. The risk management approach of the AFCIA–CAF programme is integrated into the mechanism's procedures and is designed to identify, assess, monitor, and support adaptation innovation projects through a system proportional and appropriate to the type of intervention.
338. Given that projects under the USP modality are not identified at the time of programme approval, certain Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) principle-level risks cannot be fully confirmed ex ante. Such risks will be identified and assessed through the subproject-level screening and risk categorization process, in accordance with the programme's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).
339. The environmental and social risk management approach for subprojects under the AFCIA–CAF programme is implemented through a structured, sequential workflow fully integrated into the subproject cycle. This workflow covers: (i) initial E&S screening at the application stage (Stage 1, Annex V); (ii) risk categorization by the PMU prior to technical evaluation; (iii) preparation and approval of safeguards instruments (ESMP, GAP) as a prerequisite for grant agreement signature and first disbursement; (iv) continuous monitoring of ESMP and GAP implementation during project execution; and (v) periodic reporting and independent evaluation. No subproject will be approved for implementation, and no funds will be disbursed, until all required safeguards documentation has been approved by the PMU and, where applicable, reviewed by the evaluation panel. A consolidated step-by-step description of this workflow, including the actors responsible at each step and the required documentation, is provided in Table 4 in Section A above.

Principle of Proportionality in Screening and Safeguards Preparation

340. The programme will apply the principle of proportionality in screening and documentation requirements at the application stage, ensuring that the information requested is sufficient for the PMU and the evaluation panel to approve proposals, without compromising compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP).
341. Proposals must comply with the Stage 1 eligibility requirements (Table 5, Stage 1 Eligibility & Adaptation Screening criteria) which include adaptation relevance and alignment criteria. A minimum environmental and social safeguards screening will be conducted at the application stage. Based on its results, the PMU will determine the required safeguards instruments and provide technical support for the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Gender Action Plans (GAPs), and other instruments required prior to approval and disbursement.
342. Results frameworks and monitoring arrangements will be progressively strengthened to ensure rigor without creating undue barriers to participation.

Project-Level Environmental and Social Assessment

343. Given that the calls for proposals are specifically aimed at science-community partnerships, the proposals funded under the programme components are only defined at the submission stage. Each project submitted by these partnerships will undergo a comprehensive environmental and social assessment and risk categorization process prior to final approval and implementation. This ensures a robust, consistent and risk-sensitive Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) capable of adapting to the diversity of innovations and territorial contexts in which research institutions, extension agencies and community organizations participate.
344. The assessment and categorization process will be carried out using standardized tools and guidelines, applying a preliminary analysis tool (Anex II, Appendix I) that will then allow the PMU to assign a risk classification (Category B or C)

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

345. Safeguards documentation must be substantially approved by the PMU before the grant agreement is signed. Where minor safeguards gaps are identified at approval stage, conditional approval may be granted, subject to completion of clearly defined corrective actions before first disbursement. No funds will be disbursed until all safeguards documentation has been fully approved and any outstanding conditions have been satisfied, consistent with the escalation procedures in Annex II, Section 10..
346. Compliance with these conditions will be verified by the PMU's Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist through a pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist, confirming: (i) the ESMP and GAP have been reviewed and approved (or, where conditional approval was granted, that all outstanding corrective actions have been completed); and (ii) documentary evidence that any required national permits or licenses have been secured. This checklist must be signed off by the PMU before IICA authorizes the first disbursement (Table 4, Step 7). Where outstanding conditions are not met within the agreed timeframe, the disbursement will be delayed or suspended, and the case will be escalated in accordance with the tiered compliance procedure described in Annex II (Section 10. Implementation monitoring, reporting and escalation).
347. Projects are expected to involve low to moderate environmental and social risks, generally site-specific, temporary and manageable. To manage these risks in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Management System (AF ESP / ESMS), the following measures have been integrated into the programme design:

Initial Assessment and Risk Categorization

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

Category B: will require a detailed ESMP, based on site-specific information and informed by additional studies (e.g., ESIA) when applicable.

Category C: will require a simplified ESMP, documenting regulatory compliance and establishing basic mitigation measures.

Integration of Safeguards and Design Support (Required Safeguards Documentation)

352. During the proposal design phase, the environmental and social safeguards specialist from the PMU, in alignment with the Adaptation Fund's standards, will provide support to the Science–Community Partnership teams to:
- Identify social and environmental risks and opportunities,
 - Determine the project categorization in accordance with Adaptation Fund standards;
 - Formulate mitigation and management measures proportional to the level of risk;
 - Fully integrate the Adaptation Fund safeguard policies into the technical design;
 - Develop the required environmental and social management instruments.
 - Coordinate with the competent national/sectoral authority to obtain or confirm any required environmental, water-use, or other regulatory permits and licenses, without involving that authority in technical scoring or E&S risk categorization decisions.
353. All projects shall include an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) proportional to the level of risk identified. For low-risk projects (Category C), the ESMP may adopt a simplified format. For moderate-risk projects (Category B), the ESMP shall be more detailed and based on the results of the risk analysis.
354. Safeguards documentation may include, as applicable:
- Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs);
 - Gender Action Plans (GAPs);
 - Stakeholder Engagement Plans;
 - Evidence of compliance with applicable environmental and public health regulations;
 - Environmental permits and licenses required under national legislation.

355. All required permits and licenses must be obtained and valid prior to the commencement of project implementation. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the delay, suspension, or cancellation of disbursements, in accordance with the programme's safeguards procedures.
356. Each ESMP shall include, at a minimum:
- Mitigation and management measures;
 - Clearly defined institutional responsibilities;
 - Monitoring and follow-up indicators;
 - Reporting mechanisms

Capacity Building

357. The programme includes technical assistance and specific training on the Adaptation Fund's safeguards, risk management, social inclusion, and gender, as well as on the use of risk screening and planning tools.
358. The PMU will conduct workshops, provide direct support, and be available for consultations to ensure that stakeholders understand and apply the AF requirements during the design and implementation of climate innovation projects.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

359. The PMU will conduct environmental and social monitoring as part of the programme's MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning), ensuring alignment with the Adaptation Fund's requirements. In the Monitoring and Evaluation subsection of Section 9, Annex II ESMS, the details of the monitoring stages and their respective responsibilities are presented.
360. Environmental and social indicators will be integrated into the performance framework and include disaggregated data (e.g., by gender, age, and vulnerability).
361. Monitoring will include:
- random verifications,
 - consultations with communities,
 - document review of ESMP compliance,
 - possible field visits.
362. The results will feed into adaptive learning processes, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's guidelines.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

363. The programme will have an accessible, transparent grievance redress mechanism (GRM) compatible with the Adaptation Fund's Complaints Mechanism, available to all stakeholders: producers, community organizations, scientific institutions, and project partners
364. The PMU will be responsible for:
- registering and managing complaints,
 - providing timely follow-up,
 - documenting responses and actions taken,
 - reporting to the Adaptation Fund as necessary.

R.D. Monitoring & Evaluation

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

365. The Programme will implement a robust, participatory, and learning-oriented Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, designed to ensure traceability of results, adaptive management, and the systematic generation of evidence on the processes, performance and outcomes of supported innovations. The M&E approach aligns with CAF guidelines, IICA and FONTAGRO practices, and FA standards for innovation, climate adaptation, gender equality, and environmental and social safeguards.
366. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the M&E plan, led by the Programme Coordinator, who will be supported by a specialized consultant for the development and monitoring of a specific M&E plan for each funded Science-Community Partnership. This decentralized approach will capture the territorial, sectoral, social, and technological diversity of the innovation portfolio, while ensuring methodological consistency, data quality and aggregation at the programme level.
367. In close coordination with CAF and FONTAGRO, the PMU will implement harmonized monitoring tools, particularly through FONTAGRO's knowledge management and M&E platform, which will be strengthened to:
- Record project progress in real time.
 - Collect data through a **standardized set of indicators** aligned with the Programme Results Framework, FONTAGRO monitoring practices, and Adaptation Fund reporting requirements, including indicators on TRL,

gender equality and empowerment, socio-environmental relevance, cost-effectiveness, early adoption, replication, and knowledge uptake.

- **Use standardized reporting templates**, indicator definitions, evidence requirements, and data-entry formats to ensure comparability, aggregation, and quality control across all funded Science–Community Partnerships. This will be facilitated by FONTAGRO's digital platform.
- Integrate **qualitative monitoring processes**, including learning diaries/logs, test-learn-develop cycles, community feedback, participatory monitoring inputs and outcome stories.
- **Facilitate comparative analysis** across projects, countries, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, innovation types and scaling pathways.
- Incorporate the **monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards**, including evidence-based reporting from grantees.
- Support cross-project learning synthesis by tagging and organizing evidence, lessons learned, success factors, implementation barriers, and replication opportunities across the innovation portfolio.

368. The M&E approach will be based on four operational principles:

- **Participatory and inclusive monitoring**: Involving producers, technical institutions, and Science-Community partnerships, youth, women, community organizations and if relevant, and present, Indigenous People or Afro-descendant populations and other vulnerable or historically excluded groups in the data collection and verification process, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders contribute to the monitoring efforts and that their local knowledge and perspectives are integrated;
- **Evidence-based learning**, through periodic reflection and feedback mechanisms, technical progress reports, field visits, community interviews and review workshops with project teams;
- **Sensitivity to gender, youth, and inclusion**, through the systematic collection and analysis of sex-, age-, ethnicity-, and context-disaggregated data, where applicable, and the incorporation of social inclusion variables in the evaluation of innovation performance.
- **Portfolio-level aggregation and accountability**: Ensuring that innovation and adaptation results, benefit distribution, empowerment outcomes, environmental and social performance, cost-effectiveness, and replication potential are monitored and verified not only at project level but also across the Programme portfolio.

369. The monitoring responsibilities will be organized as follows:

- The **PMU** will work under the supervision of FONTAGRO and will carry out day-to-day operational monitoring, consolidate project reports, and ensure data quality, safeguard compliance, and consistency with the programme's results framework. It will rely on FONTAGRO's digital platform, which will be adjusted for this programme and will provide technical support to Science-Community Partnerships to ensure alignment with FONTAGRO's procedures, Adaptation Fund reporting requirements, and Programme-level aggregation needs. The PMU will also ensure that all Science–Community Partnerships use the standardized indicator list, reporting templates, indicator definitions, and evidence requirements embedded in the FONTAGRO platform, enabling consistent portfolio-level aggregation and analysis.
- **IICA** will carry out financial and administrative monitoring of the Programme.
- **CAF** will oversee compliance with the Adaptation Fund requirements, ensure the methodological consistency of the indicators with AF guidelines, contract the mid-term and final evaluations of the Programme, and supervise the consolidated Programme, including progress on results, risks, environmental, social, and gender safeguards, cost-effectiveness as well as administrative-financial matters.

370. The programme will include the following aspects of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting:

- **Kick-off Workshop and Start-up Report**: At the beginning of the programme, a launch workshop will be held with the implementing entity, partners, and relevant stakeholders to review key milestones, adjust the operational plan, and consolidate agreements on roles, coordination mechanisms, reporting requirements and evidence requirements. Following this activity, CAF will prepare an Inception Report documenting the agreements reached and outlining the planned actions for the first implementation period.
- **Review of Key Innovation Project Indicators and Baseline**: The PMU will work together with the M&E consultant to analyse, once the projects are selected, which indicators require the collection of additional initial information. This analysis will identify gaps and define specific tools for data capture in the field. Each project will be requested to collect the necessary information to complete its baseline values, including, where applicable, data on direct beneficiaries, inclusion targets, gender and social inclusion conditions, innovation readiness, expected adoption pathways, preliminary cost-effectiveness assumptions, and relevant environmental and social risk indicators. Subsequently, the PMU will provide a consolidated version of all these inputs and share it with CAF, who will be responsible of compiling, reviewing and submitting an Initial Baseline Report for the programme. This will serve as the starting point for subsequent monitoring and evaluation of progress against the results framework.

- **Periodic Monitoring of Indicators, Field Visits and Adaptive Decision-making:** Monitoring will be conducted continuously, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data disaggregated by sex, age, and other inclusion criteria. Field visits, progress reports, community interviews, and participatory reviews will be used to verify progress, validate reported information, assess operational feasibility, and discuss results with local stakeholders. Based on the evidence generated, subproject continuity and support will be guided through three pathways: progression, where the innovation advances to the next stage; adaptation, where technical, operational, social, environmental, or financial adjustments are required; or discontinuation, where persistent non-viability, non-compliance, or lack of feasibility justifies termination of support in line with Programme procedures.
- **Environmental, Social, and Gender Monitoring:** The environmental, social, and gender specialists of the PMU will oversee compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), the Programme's ESMS, and the Gender Action Plan (GAP), as well as oversee the effective participation of communities and beneficiaries and monitor local relevance within the sub-projects throughout the Programme lifecycle. Environmental, social, and gender indicators will be integrated into the Programme's M&E system and monitored throughout implementation. Science–Community Partnerships will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of approved safeguard measures and for submitting standardized periodic reports covering ESMP implementation, GAP progress, incidents, grievance records, stakeholders engagement, regulatory compliance and emerging risks. They will have to comply with applicable requirements and implement the approved management measures and plans, which will be part of the commitments undertaken in the agreement signed with the executing entity. The PMU's environmental, social, and gender specialists will review these reports, conduct documentary checks, field visits, spot checks, and community consultations where needed, and prepare consolidated reports for CAF. Where gaps or non-compliance are identified, the Programme will apply a graduated escalation process, including written observations, corrective action plans, possible suspension of disbursements, and, in critical or repeated cases, potential termination of the grant agreement. Detailed arrangements are provided in Annex II, Environmental and Social Management System, including the implementation monitoring, reporting, grievance, and escalation procedures, and in Annex IV, Gender Action Plan.
- **Gender Results Monitoring and Aggregation:** In line with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and the Programme's Gender Action Plan, the Programme will monitor gender equality and empowerment outcomes beyond participation counts. Each funded partnership will report sex-, age-, and, where relevant, ethnicity-disaggregated data, and will establish context-specific inclusion measures and targets based on an initial gender and social inclusion assessment. Programme-level reporting will consolidate indicators related to women beneficiaries reached, women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles, women-led or women co-led partnerships, women's access to innovation resources and opportunities, participation in technical and innovation roles, empowerment outcomes, and documented gender-responsive or gender-transformative adaptation practices. These results will be consolidated through FONTAGRO's monitoring platform and reflected in semi-annual progress reports, annual Project Performance Reports, the mid-term evaluation, the final evaluation, and knowledge products under Component 3. Further details are provided in Annex IV, Gender Action Plan.
- **Portfolio-Level Aggregation of Results and Benefit Distribution:** To enable meaningful aggregation, comparison, and verification of results across the portfolio, all selected Science–Community Partnerships will be required to report through a standardized set of indicators aligned with the Programme Results Framework, FONTAGRO monitoring practices, and Adaptation Fund reporting requirements. The PMU will provide standardized reporting templates, indicator definitions, data-entry formats, and evidence requirements through the FONTAGRO digital platform. Beyond individual project narratives, aggregated results, benefit distribution, and empowerment outcomes will be monitored and verified at portfolio level through the harmonized results framework embedded in the platform. The standardized indicator set will cover adaptation results, beneficiary reach, inclusion, gender outcomes, environmental and social co-benefits, economic co-benefits, adoption, replication, cost-effectiveness, and scaling potential. Programme-level findings will be triangulated through annual field visits, learning events, programme reviews, and independent mid-term and final evaluations.
- **Cost-Effectiveness Monitoring and Learning:** The Programme will monitor cost-effectiveness at project and portfolio levels using common proxy indicators and standardized definitions, as relevant to each innovation type, including cost per direct beneficiary reached, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management, and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy. At entry and incubation stages, projects will provide preliminary unit-cost estimates, expected reach, adoption assumptions, and value-for-money logic. During acceleration and piloting, these assumptions will be tested under implementation conditions, generating evidence on delivery costs, adoption patterns, operational bottlenecks, efficiency gains from replication, and potential economies of scale. By completion, projects will be expected to validate whether their cost-effectiveness and sustainability assumptions remain viable beyond the grant period. The PMU will use harmonized templates and the FONTAGRO platform to aggregate and visualize cost-effectiveness evidence by country, agroecological context, sector, innovation type, beneficiary group, adaptation outcome, and scaling potential.

- **Knowledge Management, Uptake, and Replication Monitoring:** The Programme will monitor not only the production and dissemination of knowledge products, but also how lessons emerging from individual Science–Community Partnerships are systematically captured, aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level learning. Through the FONTAGRO digital monitoring and knowledge management platform, the PMU will compile structured information from project reports, learning diaries, test–learn–develop cycles, field visits, community feedback, outcome stories, and technical progress reviews. These inputs will be periodically analysed across countries, agroecological contexts, innovation types, beneficiary groups, adaptation outcomes, gender and inclusion dimensions, cost-effectiveness evidence, and scaling potential. The PMU, with support from FONTAGRO and relevant technical specialists, will synthesize cross-project findings into programme-level knowledge products, including learning briefs, case studies, comparative analyses, technical notes, webinars, and dissemination materials under Component 3. Indicators will track downloads, views, dissemination through digital platforms, documented interest in piloting or replicating supported solutions, and evidence of replication in new locations, institutions, or programmes. These findings will be reviewed periodically by the PMU and reflected in progress reports, Project Performance Reports, Adaptation Fund reporting, the mid-term evaluation, and the final evaluation.
- **Annual monitoring and preparation of the Project Performance Report (PPR).** The PMU coordinator will consolidate the available technical, financial, environmental, social, gender, cost-effectiveness, and knowledge management data to complete the annual PPR report, which will assess performance against targets, risks, safeguards, benefit distribution and implementation progress. CAF will review and process this information in compliance with the Adaptation Fund guidelines.
- **Annual supervision missions.** CAF will carry out annual field missions together with the PMU to review progress, verify results, identify operational challenges and risks, and formulate recommendations to optimize implementation.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation.** At the midterm of the Programme cycle, an external evaluation will be conducted to analyse the relevance, effectiveness, safeguard performance, gender results, adaptive management and early evidence of cost-effectiveness, and prospect for sustainability and scale. This evaluation will provide strategic recommendations to strengthen the second phase of the Programme. CAF will oversee this process and ensure technical quality in accordance with its institutional standards and AF requirements.
- **Project Completion Report:** Prior to conducting the final evaluation, the PMU will prepare the inputs to the Final Project Report summarizing results, lessons learned, progress against the results framework, financial execution, safeguards performance, gender results, cost-effectiveness evidence, knowledge uptake, replication potential and compliance with environmental, social, and gender plans. CAF will consolidate the Report, review and validate it for final submission to the Adaptation Fund. This report will serve as the main input for the independent team in charge of the final evaluation, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of implementation and achievements.
- **Final Programme Evaluation.** An independent consultant will carry out a final evaluation to assess results, sustainability, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, safeguards performance, gender equality and empowerment outcomes, knowledge uptake, replication potential, and lessons that can inform future programmes. The evaluation shall be aligned with the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.
- **Closing workshop and dissemination of lessons learned.** Upon completion of the Programme, a virtual closing workshop will be held to share results, good practices, lessons learned and evidence on scalable and cost-effective adaptation innovations, as well as to promote opportunities for scaling up, replication, institutional uptake, and articulation with new initiatives or financing.

371. Table 11 includes the main milestones along with their budget, frequency, and monitoring responsibility.

Table 11. Budgeted monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan

Report	Responsible party	Budget (USD)	Timeframe
Inception Report	CAF	2,000 (included in the IE Fee)	1 month after Inception Workshop
Baseline Report	CAF	6,000 (included in the IE Fee)	3 months after the selection of the Partnerships and Innovation Projects
Monitoring of selected projects through the FONTAGRO <i>dashboard</i>	Programme Coordinator	15,600 (included in the Programme budget)	Monthly
Technical and financial progress reports	Programme Coordinator	26,000 (included in the IICA's administrative costs in PEC)	At the end of each quarter
Environmental, social, and gender	Programme Coordinator	38,880	At the end of each quarter

safeguards monitoring	Environmental, Social, and Gender Safeguards Specialist	(included in the Program budget)	
Annual analysis and preparation of the Project Performance Report (PPR), including consolidated reporting on gender outcomes and empowerment indicators, in line with the GAP.	CAF	80,000 (included in the IE Fee)	Annually, up to 2 months after the end of the implementation calendar year
Annual monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards, and environmental, social, and gender management plans	Environmental and Social Safeguards and Gender Specialist (PMU)	29,720 (included in the Programme budget)	Annually for 4 years
CAF verification missions	CAF PMU	40,000 (included in the project-oversight line in the IE Fee)	Annually for 4 years
Mid-term evaluation	External Consultant	40,000 (included in the IE Fee)	2 years after project start
Final Project Report	CAF	10,000 (included in the IE Fee)	End of the Project (6 months after project completion)
External final evaluation	External Consultant CAF	70,000 (included in the IE Fee)	At project closure (within 9 months after completion)
Closing workshop and lessons learned	PMU	15,000 (included in the PEC)	At project closure
Financial audits	CAF External Audit	40,000 (included in the IE Fee)	Annual audit and at project completion (Implementing Entity, within 6 months after the close of the fiscal year in which the programme ended).
Total		413,200	

S.E. Results framework

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

372. The Programme will have a results framework that guides the systematic monitoring of its implementation and the changes generated, including targets and key indicators. As this is a programmatic approach, the specific adaptation benefits of each project for vulnerable agricultural producers are not pre-defined at this stage. The contracted M&E specialist will ensure relevant indicators to measure adaptation benefits for producers in the field, which will be reported and identified once the Projects are selected. This framework integrates indicators aligned with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework and ensures the cross-cutting incorporation of gender equality principles, in coherence with the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social policy and gender policy. Table 12 compiles the contribution to AF core indicator "number of direct and indirect beneficiaries". Table 13 presents the full Results framework of the project, including indicators for tracking and monitoring the GAP.

Table 12. AF Core Indicator table: Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries

	Baseline (absolute number)	Target at Project Approval (absolute number)	Adjusted target first year of implementation (absolute number)	Actual at completion (absolute number)
Direct beneficiaries supported by the Project	0	1320		
Female direct beneficiaries	0	462		
Youth direct beneficiaries	0	349		
Indirect beneficiaries supported by the Project	0	120		
Female indirect beneficiaries	0	42		

Youth indirect beneficiaries	0	31	
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Table 13. Results Framework

Project Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification & Monitoring Responsibility (MR)	Risks and Assumptions
To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.	Number of accelerated and validated ~~technologies-innovations that that generate-achieve scaling-up and demonstrate benefits of increased resilience for vulnerable group~~ ~~evidence of increased resilience of vulnerable farmers' groups (TRL advancement 7–8).~~	0	~~108~~	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system + evaluation with evidence of adaptation benefits MR: PMU and CAF	• Community and institutional actors validate the innovations and apply the accelerated innovations. • Farmers find value in innovation • Estimates: ~~9050~~% of the supported partnerships ~~manage-to-achieve validate-and generate-evidence-of-the-innovations~~scaling-up <u>Direct beneficiaries include:</u> 60 farmers or community actors per 20 innovation projects, and 120 institutional actors with increased capacity and knowledge on innovation for adaptation in the agricultural sector. Indirect beneficiaries assumes that two projects will be able to document replication and spillover effects with a similar number of community members (thus, 120 indirect beneficiaries). <u>Adaptation benefit:</u> specific indicators to demonstrate the adaptation outcomes will be defined for each selected innovation project and a mandatory requirement for disbursement. At this stage it is not possible to know upfront what type of projects will be selected.
	GAP-O4 a) Number of innovation solutions validated (TRL 7–8) that demonstrate adaptation benefits specifically for women and vulnerable producers (e.g., reduced climate risk exposure, improved resilience practices, increased adaptive capacity)	0	~~Of the 18, a~~ At least 6 validated innovations show documented gender-responsive adaptation outcomes by programme end		
	Total number of beneficiaries with increased adaptive capacity to climate impacts in the agricultural sector.	0	1440	Evaluation MR: PMU and CAF	
	<u>Women</u>	0	504		
	Of which, youth	0	100		
	Of which Indigenous People	0	36		
	<u>Men</u>	0	936		
	Of which, youth	0	280		
	Of which Indigenous People	0	84		
	GAP indicators contribute to this Project Objective indicator GAP-A A1.1.1.1.i) - GAP-A1.1.2.1.i), ii) - GAPA-1.2.1.2.i) - GAP-A1.2.2.1.i) - GAP-A2.1.1.1.i) - GAP-A2.1.1.2.ii) - GAP-A3.1.1.2.ii)- GAP-A3.1.3.1.ii)				
Component 1:					
Outcome//Output	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification & Monitoring	Risks and Assumptions
Outcome 1 Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative	Number of innovation solutions that are field-tested with vulnerable communities for agricultural adaptation (TRL-6).	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	•Actors can dedicate time and personnel to collaborative co-design processes.

agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	Number of innovators supported by the Programme who manage to field-test the innovation with vulnerable producers, of which <u>Women</u> Of which, youth Of which, Indigenous People <u>Men</u> Of which, youth Of which, Indigenous People	0	1320 462 92 36 858 257 84	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	• The technical, climate, and socio-environmental information required for design is available. • Partnerships achieve internal agreements and minimum governance arrangements. • There are no significant regulatory barriers to developing prototypes (inputs, technologies, permits). Estimate: Institutional actors: 6 institutional representatives per partnership Community actors: 60 producers or community actors per partnership Estimate: 4 technical institution representatives per 300 partnerships Estimate: 3 community members per 300 partnerships
	Number of Partnerships that carry out at least one iterative learning cycle and record the process and evidence of the innovation.	0	20	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
GAP Outcome 1: Women's leadership and decision-making in partnerships GAP-O1. Ensure that Science–Community Partnerships supported by the Programme strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making spaces throughout incubation and acceleration	a) % of funded partnerships where women hold at least one formal leadership or decision-making role (technical lead, community lead, or steering role within the alliance)	0	40%	FONTAGRO digital monitoring platform + partnership governance records	• Gender norms may limit women's leadership roles. • Assumes inclusive selection criteria and mentoring support women's participation in governance.
	b) % of women participating in funded partnerships who report increased influence in project-related decision-making, co-design processes, or innovation planning compared to project inception..	0	40%	Reviewed Mid-term and final evaluation MR: PMU	

Output 1.1 Regional call for proposals disseminated and Science–Community Partnerships supported for formulating innovative agricultural adaptation projects	Number of regional calls for proposals launched including gender and inclusion considerations	0	1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system. <i>Call guidelines and application package explicitly incorporating gender-responsive selection criteria and safeguards requirements GAP-A1.1.1.1i), ii), iii)</i> MR: PMU	•
	Number of partnerships that participate and apply to the Science-Community Partnerships call for Agricultural Innovation proposals. GAP-A1.1.1.i)	0	300	Participant registration in webinars and sessions with extension workers. <i>Outreach and application support records including standardized templates, guidance notes, webinars, and helpdesk support to ensure equitable access GAP-A1.1.1.1.I), II).</i> MR: PMU	•
	Number of community actors sensitized on agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage. <u>Women</u> Of which youth 0 Of which Indigenous 0 <u>Men</u> Of which youth 0 Of which Indigenous 0 GAP A1.1.2 .1.ii) Number of community actors sensitized on agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, age, and organizational affiliation 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	900 315 126 31 585 175 58 0	Record of participants in webinars and sessions with extension agents. <i>Sex-, age-, and Indigenous-status disaggregation aligned with inclusive participation measures under GAP-A1.1.1.1; I)</i> MR: PMU At least 35% of the participants should be women, of which at least 10% should be Indigenous women and at least 20% should be young women. At least 65% should be men, of which at least 30% should be young men, and 10% should be Indigenous men. ⁴⁷	•

⁴⁷ Where appropriate, and in accordance with national strategies and policies, participation and benefit targets must be established for Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant populations, and other underrepresented groups present in the intervention area.

	Number of scientific actors trained in agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage. Of which women Of which men Of which youth GAP-A1.1.2.iii) Number of scientific actors trained in agricultural innovation, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage, disaggregated by sex and age.	0 0 0 0 0	120 48 72 24 At least 35% of the participants should be women, of which at least 20% should be young women	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system. <i>Training attendance records with disaggregation aligned with inclusive capacity-strengthening measures under GAP-A1.1.2.1.i)</i> MR: PMU and CAF	
Output 1.2 Innovative agricultural adaptation solutions co-designed and developed by Science–Community Partnerships through collaborative innovation processes	Number of innovative proposals for agricultural adaptation co-designed and developed with the inclusion of vulnerable producer groups, of which Focused on women's groups Focused on youth groups Focused on Indigenous peoples' groups GAP-A1.2.1.1.ii), v) GAP- A1.2.1.i) Inclusion in the evaluation forms of an explicit criterion on: a) direct participation of the prioritized groups (women, youth, indigenous population), b) female leadership, c) and the substantive participation of women in technical and community roles, with a minimum weighting.	0 0 0 0 0 0	20 6 2 1 100% of the criteria included in the evaluation forms: a) where all projects must demonstrate the direct participation of at least 1 of these groups; b) all projects must include women/youth and/or indigenous population in their decision-making structures, and projects led by women will have an additional point in the evaluation, c) projects must include the participation of at least 20% women in technical/community roles.	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system. <i>Evidence of inclusion criteria applied in the evaluation matrix aligned with GAP-A1.2.1.1.iii) and also aligned with GAP-A1.1.1.1</i> MR: PMU	- Partnerships are willing to incorporate inclusive targeting in proposal design. - Women-, youth-, and Indigenous-led groups are able to access and complete the application process.

	Number of Science–Community Partnerships that implement formal collaboration mechanisms (technical exchange, assistance, and co-design) to develop and test innovative agricultural adaptation solutions, of which Focused on women's groups Focused on youth groups Focused on Indigenous peoples' group GAP-A1.2.2.1.i) GAP-A1.2.2.1.ii) % of funded projects led or co- led by women GAP-A1.2.2.1.iv) Document inclusion results as part of your annual reports (including at least the percentage of projects benefiting priority groups, the number of direct beneficiaries, the percentage of women-led initiatives funded, and the number of people accessing innovation resources disaggregated by gender, age, and ethnicity).	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	20 6 2 1 At least 30% 100% of funded science-community partnerships are presented in the annual portfolio-level reports.	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; partnership agreements; <i>records of co-design sessions and collaboration mechanisms implemented; disaggregation aligned with GAP-A1.1.1.1; GAP-A1.2.2.1.iii)</i> MR: PMU	- Partnerships maintain active collaboration throughout incubation and acceleration. - Community actors (including women and Indigenous groups) remain engaged in co-design processes.
	Number of partnerships that participate and apply to the Science-Community Partnerships call for Agricultural Innovation proposals. GAP-A1.2.1.1.iv) Training for external evaluators on gender biases within competitive selection processes. GAP-A1.2.1.2.vi) % of women in the steering and selection/evaluation committee	0 0 0	300 100% of evaluators trained. At least 40% of the members should be women	Participant registration in webinars and sessions with extension workers <i>Sex-, age-, Indigenous-status and organizational affiliation (understood as community actors and institutional actors).disaggregation aligned with inclusive participation measures under GAP-A1.1.1.1 i) and GAP-A1.2.1.1.iii)</i> MR: PMU	
Component 2:					
Outcome/Output	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Source of Verification	Risks and Assumptions

Outcome 2: Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	Number of ~~institutional actors~~ institutions from the partnerships that demonstrate ~~strengthened capacities to co-design, validate and test innovative increased knowledge and its application to innovate and validate innovative~~ climate adaptation solutions, including-integrating the needs of the most vulnerable groups to climate change, as well as social, environmental, and gender aspects. Of which women Of which men Of which youth	0 0 0	~~12040~~ 48 72 24	Evaluation FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; training completion records and application evidence MR: PMU and CAF	- Innovation cycles and technical assistance generate useful and actionable learnings. - Actors are able to dedicate time and personnel to collaborative co-design processes. - Women technical staff are able to participate meaningfully. - Key actors are willing to collaborate. - Partnerships integrate gender and ESS into monitoring beyond participation metrics.
	Number of producers or community actors who have tested and applied innovative adaptation solutions incubated or accelerated by the Programme Women Of which youth Of which Indigenous Peoples Men Of which youth Of which Indigenous Peoples	0 0 0 0 0 0	1200 360 72 36 840 252 84	Evaluation FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; field-testing records; beneficiary feedback MR: PMU and CAF	
	Number of financed partnerships that report increased knowledge on agricultural innovation, environmental and social issues, gender, and the measurement of agricultural resilience benefits. Focused on women's groups Focused on youth groups Focused on Indigenous Peoples' groups	0 0 0	20 6 2 1	Evaluation FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; MR: PMU and CAF	
	GAP Outcome 2: Women's participation in technical and innovation roles. GAP-O2. Provide targeted capacity strengthening and mentoring to enable women to actively contribute to the technical design, testing, and validation of climate adaptation innovations a) % of funded projects in which women actively lead or co-lead at least one innovation-related function during the incubation or acceleration process (e.g. field testing, data collection, validation of results, technical adjustments, knowledge generation, extension activities or innovation dissemination). b) % of women participating in Science–Community Partnerships who report increased confidence and capacity to engage in technical, innovation, or adaptation-related roles compared to project inception.	0 0	40% 40%	Innovation cycle documentation + technical reports + middle and final evaluation MR PMU	
Output 2.1: Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with	~~Number of institutions trained in climate – resilient agricultural innovations, environmental, social, and gender topics, with participation of~~ ~~Number of innovators supported to strengthen capacities in E&S management plans,~~	0 0	~~44040~~ ~~15420~~	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; training modules completed <i>Childcare and translation services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory</i>	Communities, scientist and institutional stakeholders take part in training activities

gender, environmental, and social approaches	~~monitoring and results-based tracking, gender aspects and innovation ecosystem~~ Of which wWomen Of which yYouth Of which Indigenous Peoples GAP-A2.1.1.i), ii), iii)	0 0	~~1168~~ ~~124~~	events to promote equity participation GAP-A2.1.1.3.i), ii) MR: PMU	
	Number of people participating in open innovation sessions to enhance exchange and learning. Of which women Of which men Of which youth Of which Indigenous Peoples GAP-A2.1.1.1.i); iii)	0 0 0 0 0	400 140 260 40 40	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; participation records; session agendas ensuring inclusive representation <i>Childcare and translation services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory events to promote equity participation</i> GAP-A2.1.1.3.i), ii) MR: PMU and CAF	Estimate: 20 people per open innovation session
	Number of partnerships receiving technical assistance to scale up or replicate their projects. GAP-A2.1.1.1.i) GAP-A2.1.1.2.i), ii)	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; acceleration support documentation MR: PMU	
	Number of marketplace-type events held to facilitate interaction between innovators and potential financiers.	0	1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; event reports <i>Childcare and translation services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory events to promote equity participation</i> GAP-A2.1.1.3.i), ii) MR: PMU	
Component 3					
Outcome 3: Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	Number of knowledge products and dissemination spaces with validated evidence of adaptation benefits for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector achieved through innovations accelerated by the Programme.	0	32	Systematization; FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; knowledge products repository MR: PMU	There are funding opportunities and calls for proposals to scale up and replicate the most prominent innovations. Estimate: Compiles output (6 dissemination initiatives + 20 publications + 1 systematization + 1 online

					catalogue + 2 policy briefs + 2 dialogue roundtables).
	Percentage of participatory instances and knowledge products that promote equity and inclusion (language, schedules, women speakers).	0	100%	Record of equity and inclusion measures MR: PMU	100% of participatory instances include equity and inclusion considerations.
	Number of publications downloads related to the programme	0	400	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	• Empowerment outcomes may vary across sociocultural contexts. • Assumes participatory co-design and inclusive monitoring strengthen women's agency over adaptation decisions.
	Number of views of disseminated information through digital platforms	0	5,000 annually	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	
					• Broader inequalities may constrain women's access to productive resources. • Assumes innovations and technical support

					reduce barriers and improve access
	<u>Number of institutions participating in Science–Community Partnerships that, through Programme-supported knowledge management, learning and evidence-use processes, demonstrate a strengthened mandate, dedicated resources and/or sustained functions to lead innovation for adaptation to climate change, disaggregated by geographic scale and type of institution.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>FONTAGRO digital monitoring system</u> <u>MR: PMU</u>	•
	Number of documented cases of uptake, including replication, piloting, interest in replication ~~our~~ use of Programme knowledge products and evidence to inform scaling discussions, investment opportunities, public programmes or adaptation planning in new locations or programmes	0	5	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system;) MR: PMU	•
GAP Outcome 3: Women's access to innovation resources and economic benefits. GAP-O3. Strengthen women's access to innovation-related resources, tools, and follow-on opportunities for scaling adaptation solutions (This outcome is expected to contribute to the programme-level indicator on beneficiaries with increased adaptive capacity to climate impacts in the agricultural sector, disaggregated by sex, age, and Indigenous status)	% of women beneficiaries reporting improved access to innovation-related resources, services, or opportunities through the Programme, including training, technical assistance, productive inputs, technologies, participation in innovation testing/validation processes, and or scaling pathways for adaptation solutions.	0	50%	Baseline at entry Follow-up surveys at mid-term and closure MR: PMU	
Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Number of participants in workshops or dissemination and learning events and policy dialogue, with inclusive representation <u>Women</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous <u>Men</u> Of which youth Of which Indigenous GAP-A3.1.1.2.ii)	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	240 84 16 8 156 46 15	Records of participants <i>inclusive participation measures aligned with GAP-A3.2.1.2.i); GAP-A3.1.1.1.i)</i> MR: PMU	•institutional actors are interested in sharing and learning events. Estimate: Programme dissemination and communication initiatives: 2 workshops at mid-term and closure (100 participants in each). 4 annual

	Number of the Programme's dissemination and communication initiatives with a gender-sensitive language management protocol.	0	6	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system <i>Gender-sensitive communication aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i)</i> MR: PMU	FONTAGRO workshops with 10 participants per workshop.
	Number of scientific publications with a gender sensitive language <i>GAP-A3.1.2.1.ii)</i>	0	5	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system <i>Visibility of women-led innovations aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i)</i> MR: PMU MR: PMU	
	Number of dissemination webinars conducted by the Community-Science Partnerships <i>GAP-A3.1.2.1.ii)</i>	0	40	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system <i>Gender-sensitive communication aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i)</i>	
	Number of technical publications with a gender-sensitive language management protocol.	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system <i>Communication protocol aligned with GAP-A3.2.1.1.i)</i> MR: PMU	
	Number of systematized success stories Of which focused on women <i>GAP-A3.1.3.1.i)</i>	0 0	6 1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system <i>Women-led innovation visibility aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i), ii)</i> MR: PMU	
	<i>GAP-A3.1.3.1.ii) ii) % of women beneficiaries reporting increased access to innovation resources, technologies or financing opportunities</i>	0	At least 40% of women beneficiaries.		
	Online catalogue of innovative solutions created	0	1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system <i>Ensure that all information, communication, message, or communication product incorporates gender approach GAP-A3.1.2.1.i), ii)</i> MR: PMU	
	Number of policy briefs with policy recommendations based on Programme learnings, including recommendations on gender, youth, and interculturality. <i>GAP-A3.1.3.2.i)</i>	0	5	Project monitoring platform <i>Policy influence aligned with GAP-A3.1.1.1.i)</i> MR: PMU	
	Number of dialogue roundtables held with decision-makers. <i>GAP-A3.1.3.2.ii)</i>	0	2	Project monitoring platform <i>Inclusive governance and women's voice aligned with GAP-A3.1.1.1.i)</i> MR: PMU	

T.F. Alignment with the results framework of the Adaptation Fund

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

Project outcomes should be aligned with the Fund level outcome for innovation (Outcome 8) of the Strategic Results Framework and all others that may apply in the context of the project/programme. Please follow additional guidance provided in Document AFB/PPRC.29/44⁴⁸

Table 14. Alignment with the results framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s) Outcomes	Project Objective Outcome Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	Number of accelerated and validated innovations that achieve scaling-up and demonstrate benefits of increased resilience for vulnerable groups Number of accelerated and validated technologies that generate evidence of increased resilience of vulnerable farmers' groups (TRL advancement 7–8).	Outcome 8: Innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change accelerated, encouraged and enabled to scale up	Indicator 8A: Innovations successfully reaching scale up that demonstrate local innovation participation and/or local innovation benefit 8.1 Innovations successfully reaching scale up that demonstrate local innovation participation and/or local innovation benefit.	5,194,960 5,966,280
Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations. To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.	Number of institutions from the partnerships that demonstrate strengthened capacities to co-design, validate and test innovative climate adaptation solutions, integrating the needs of the most vulnerable groups to climate change, as well as social, environmental, and gender aspects. Total number of beneficiaries with increased adaptive capacity to climate impacts in the agricultural sector	Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience [# of institutions, disaggregated by scale, by sector, and by type of institution] 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience	594,180
Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and	Number of institutions participating in Science–Community Partnerships that, through Programme-supported	Outcome 8: Innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change accelerated,	Indicator 8B: Institutions created and/or enabled	771,320

⁴⁸ Available at: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AFB.PPRC_29.44-Guidance-to-IEs-for-inclusion-of-objectives-and-Indicators-for-Innovation.pdf

<u>replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions</u>	<u>knowledge management, learning and evidence-use processes, demonstrate a strengthened mandate, dedicated resources and/or sustained functions to lead innovation for adaptation to climate change, disaggregated by geographic scale and type of institution.</u>	<u>encouraged and enabled to scale up</u>	<u>that lead on innovation for adaptation to climate change</u>	
Total objective outcome-level grant amount				6,560,460
Project OutcomeOutput(s)	Project Outcome-Output Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Output	Adaptation Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1:- <u>1.1 Regional call for proposals disseminated and Science-Community Partnerships supported for formulating innovative agricultural adaptation projects.</u> <u>1.2 Innovative agricultural adaptation projects co-designed and financed Science-Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test-learn-develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories</u>	<u>Number of innovation solutions that are field-tested with vulnerable communities for agricultural adaptation (TRL-6). Number of innovators supported by the Programme who manage to field-test the innovation; disaggregated by sex and youth.</u>	Output 8.1 Innovations identified and piloted that collectively enhance local innovation capacity and contribute to the development of local, national and regional adaptation innovation ecosystems	<u>Indicator 8.1-1-B: Innovations piloted that demonstrate local innovation participation and/ or local innovation benefit</u> [# of innovations] Innovations identified that demonstrate local innovation participation and/or local innovation benefits	5,194,960
<u>Outcome 2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches</u> <u>2- Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations</u>	<u>Number of institutional actors/institutions trained in climate – resilient agricultural innovations, environmental, social, and gender topics during the call for proposals stage.</u>	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centres and networks to respond rapidly to extreme weather events	<u>Indicator 2.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience</u> [# of institutions, disaggregated by scale, by sector, and by type of institution] <u>2.1.1. No. of staff trained to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events (by gender)</u>	594,180
<u>Outcome 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated</u> <u>3- Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and</u>	<u>Number of the Programme's dissemination and communication initiatives with a gender-sensitive language management protocol</u>	<u>Output 8.2: Innovations identified and piloted which build the adaptation innovation evidence base and institutional capacity</u> Output 8.2: Innovations identified and piloted which build the adaptation innovation evidence base and	<u>Indicator 8.2: Innovation-focused knowledge products disseminated and/or learning events facilitated that support and enable innovation capacity at a local, national, and/or regional level</u>	771,320

replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions		institutional capacity	8.2.1: Innovation-focused knowledge products disseminated and/or learning events facilitated that support and enable innovation capacity at a local, national, and/or regional level	
Total <u>outcome-output</u> level grant amount				6,560,460

U.G. Detailed budget

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

Table 15. Detailed budget

Component	Output	Activity	Subactivity	Budget account description	Amount USD (year 1)	Amount USD (year 2)	Amount USD (year 3)	Amount USD (year 4)	Total Amount USD	Notes and assumptions
Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC	Output 1.1 Regional call for proposals disseminated and Science–Community Partnerships supported for formulating innovative agricultural adaptation projects	Activity 1.1.1 Desing a regional call for proposal and source innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector	Subactivity 1.1.1 a Design and launch of the regional call for proposals	Consultants	44,352				44,352	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to the Components). The consultants will provide technical support on the common needs of technical assistance requested by the beneficiaries, carry out the TDR
			Subactivity 1.1.1 b Identify and source innovation projects	Consultants	35,904				35,904	
		Activity 1.1.2 Provide support and strengthen capacities for formulation of innovation projects through Science–Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector		Consultants	88,704				88,704	

								of the call, dictate the webinars, among other tasks. Availability Percentage for activities of Component 1 in year 1 (21%, 17% y 42% respectively)
			Contractual Services-Companies	10,000				10,000 Translation Services
	Output 1.2 Innovative agricultural adaptation projects co-designed and financed	Activity 1.2.1 Screening and selection of climate adaptation innovation projects	Consultants	16,000				16,000 Contract of 4 professionals for the constitution of the Evaluation Panel for the first year when launching the call. Each receives USD4,000 per month of work.
		Activity 1.2.2 Incubate and accelerate Science-Community partnership projects for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector	Grants	5,000,000				5,000,000 At least 20 small innovation grants of up to US\$250,000 per grant awarded following a regional call for proposals in Year 1
Subtotal Component 1			5,194,960		-	-	-	5,194,960

Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects	Output 2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovation, incorporating gender, environmental, and social approaches	Activity 2.1.1 Provide technical assistance to Science–Community Partnerships in climate change, innovation and E&S risk management	Consultants						4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to the Components). The consultants will provide technical support on the common needs of technical assistance requested by the beneficiaries, prepare guides, among other tasks. Availability Percentage for Activity 2.1.1 in years 2 (80%),3 (80%) and 4 (30%)
						168,960	168,960	63,360	401,280

		Contractual Services-Companies			20,000		20,000	Translation Services
	Activity 2.1.2 Open and hybrid innovation sessions to guarantee inclusiveness and participation of vulnerable communities	Training and workshops			130,660		130,660	20 hybrid sessions: includes local and international travel (as needed) and space and catering for people present. Funds are included for inclusive mechanisms for the indigenous population. Average USD 6,500 per session
	Activity 2.1.3 Strengthen capacities for pitching to funders and organize a Science-Community Partnership Marketplace	Consultants				42,240	42,240	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to the

									Components). The consultants will provide technical support on the common needs of technical assistance in match, among other tasks. Availability Percentage for Activity 2.1.3 in year 4 (20%)
Subtotal Component 2			-		168,960	319,620	105,600	594,180	
Component 3. Knowledge management and dissemination of results for adaptation	Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Activity 3.1.1 Monitor and generate evidence on the innovation process and the results of innovation projects.	Consultants						4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the
				42,240	42,240	42,240	42,240	168,960	

						projects and the programme, development of success stories, conducting workshops, among other tasks. Availability percentage for Activity 3.1.1 in all years (20%)
	Contractual Services-Companies	100,000				Study of demand in the production sector, survey of the producer.
	Travel					Technical-specialist visits supporting subproject implementation and evidence generation: It is estimated that 20 trips by international and regional experts for 6 people for an average value of \$2,000 per person for a visit to the territory and monitoring.
	Consultant					M&E Consultant to support the review of the results reports and provide feedback at subproject-level. Data quality and beneficiary-level evidence generation
		3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	

								support. Includes prior training to beneficiaries on the assembly of quality data at baseline and during monitoring . This does not include the programme-level BDR functions covered under CAF's IE fee.
	Subactivity 3.1.2 a Strengthen the FONTAGRO platform for tracking and communication	Contractual Services-Companies			30,000		30,000	Development in a new module or improvement in a digital platform
Activity 3.1.2 Communicate and disseminate results to support the scaling and replication of successful experiences.	Subactivity 3.1.2 b Promote dissemination of results	Consultants					42,240	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100%
							42,240	

[illegible]

Activity 3.1.3 Provide incentives for successful cases with scaling up potential	Subactivity 3.1.3 a Organize a competition to identify scaling up potential	Grants				45,000	45,000	USD 15,000 award to 3 projects to develop TRL9 (FONTAGRO success story competitions)
	Subactivity 3.1.3 b Promotion of scaling and replication of successful cases	Consultants				21,120	21,120	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the projects and the programme, development of success stories, conducting workshops, among other tasks. Availability

										percentage for Activity 3.1.3 in year 4 (10%)
				Consultant				10,000	10,000	2-month consultancy to carry out the policy brief at USD 5,000 per month
Subtotal Component 3				157,240		185,240	215,240	213,600	771,320	
Total Component				5,352,200		354,200	534,860	319,200	6,560,460	
Project Execution Cost (PEC)				Consultant						Programme Coordinator, tasks as executive secretary with the Steering Committee, among other tasks. USD 6,500 (100% availability) (23% to PEC)
					18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	72,000	
				Training and workshops				15,000	15,000	Project Closing Workshop
				Travel Costs						Costs of travel for administrative, Steering Committee and Programme Coordinator visits supporting subproject implementation and evidence generation
				8,084	5,000	5,000	5,000	23,084		

	Administrative cost	415,280	65,204	77,850	43,852	602,186	Program administrative costs: this includes coordination between IICA headquarters and country offices, processing and consolidation of financial and operational management of subprojects, including procurement, payments and financial reporting of subprojects. It includes also the overall financial management of the programme, including the executing entity's audited financial statements, personnel administration, and coordination support for programme execution. Additionally, the percentage accounts for use of office facilities, equipment, and supplies required for programme execution.
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TOTAL PEC	441,364	88,204	100,850	81,852	712,270
Total project (components + PEC)	5,793,564	442,404	635,710	401,052	7,272,730
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)					727,270
Amount of Financing Requested					8,000,000

Table 16. IE management fee

Activities	Account CAF	Total Budget	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Inception workshop	Workshops / Events	30,000	30,000	0	0	0
Audit related costs associated with CAF's fiduciary oversight, including internal controls, verification of compliance, and administration of the project account	Administrative costs	40,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Project oversight: Include CAF supervision and verification mission travel, workshops and logistics to project sites to verify quality of deliverables, and overseeing independent evaluations	Workshops / Events	187,200	66,800	66,800	26,800	26,800
Set up of M&E system and related activities, Inception report, Baseline report Final Project Completion Report, Annual PPR	Consulting Fees	214,000	78,500	48,500	38,500	48,500
Mid-term evaluation (MTE), Final evaluation (FE)	Consulting Fees	110,000	0	40,000	0	70,000
CAF AF Corporate costs* (includes financial administration of project funds, accounting services and information management systems)	Consulting Fees	146,070	46,500	26,500	46,500	26,570
Total		727,270	231,800	191,800	121,800	181,870

*CAF AF Corporate cost: includes costs related to overall AF CAF related activities, including CAF AF country engagement and/or capacity building; activities related to CAF AF project cycles, at the portfolio level, CAF AF overall administrative staff contracts and information management systems; overall CAF AF Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) policy management and compliance functions across the AF portfolio; participation in AF portfolio-level activities, including related travel.

V.H. Disbursement schedule

Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.

Table 17. Disbursement schedule

	Upon signature of Agreement	One Year after Project Start a)	Year 2b)	Year 3	Total
Scheduled date	mar-2027	mar-2028	mar-2029	mar-2030	
Project Funds	5,793,564	442,404	635,710	401,052	7,272,730
Implementing Entity Fees	231,800	191,800	121,800	181,870	727,270
Total	6,025,364	634,204	757,510	582,922	8,000,000

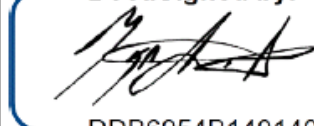
PART IV: CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Implementing Entity certification

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

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

DocuSigned by:



DDB6954B1401403...

Ignacio LORENZO ARANA

Director for Technical Advisory on Climate and Biodiversity

Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Department

AF CAF Coordinator

Date: December 23th, 2025

Tel. and email: +598.99180424

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Stakeholder Consultation Report

Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in LAC



STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REPORT | 21 July 2026



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) is a small-grants aggregator program funded and established by the Adaptation Fund (AF) to foster innovation in climate change adaptation in developing countries. Under this funding window, competitive grants of up to USD 250,000 are awarded to initiatives that develop innovative, scalable, and culturally appropriate solutions to climate impacts. AFCIA seeks to accelerate development, piloting, validation, and scaling up of technological, social, financial, and institutional innovations, while promoting local participation, capacity building, and responsible risk management. As part of its design, the AF invites accredited Implementing Entities—regional or multilateral—to submit proposals under the *aggregator* modality, aimed at establishing efficient, inclusive, and transparent mechanisms for channeling small grants in support of climate adaptation initiatives at the global or regional level.

Within this framework, CAF—Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean—submitted an Expression of Interest for the program *“Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in LAC”* in response to the AF call launched in June 2025 under AFCIA. At its 45th meeting, through Decision B.45/44, the Adaptation Fund Board selected CAF’s proposal and invited CAF to develop a full program proposal.

CAF selected Viridia Projects to structure and prepare the documentation required to submit the full proposal to the AF under the AFCIA funding window. To this end, a consultation process was conducted with as many stakeholders and experts as possible to develop an in-depth understanding of existing work on innovation and climate adaptation in the agricultural sector across Latin America and the Caribbean, ensure that the Program is aligned with territorial dynamics, and confirm its additionality in relation to existing initiatives.

During November and December 2025, virtual consultations were conducted in two formats:

- Follow-up meetings with CAF, FONTAGRO, and IICA; and
- Bilateral consultations with strategic stakeholders from the region’s agricultural, academic, and organizational sectors.

Additionally, expanded focus group meetings involving CAF, FONTAGRO, and IICA were held between May and June 2026 during the review stage of the full proposal. These meetings supported ongoing adjustments to the program design based on feedback received from the AF.

The purpose of this report is to describe the consultation process carried out to support the development of the full Program proposal. Annex 1 presents the initial stakeholder mapping prepared at the outset of the proposal development process.

Table 1 presents the complete list of stakeholders consulted. A total of 13 individuals were interviewed (30.8% women), including 1 active member of FONTAGRO (Eugenia Saini), 4 representatives from IICA, and 8 representatives of academic institutions, producer organizations, or entities with experience in agricultural innovation and adaptation (12.5% women).

Table 1. Stakeholders consulted during the full proposal preparation stage

Stakeholder Type	Position, Institution	Stakeholder
Technical implementing partner of the Program	Executive Secretary of FONTAGRO	Eugenia Saini
Program Executing Entity	Climate Change Specialist at IICA	Kattia Fajardo



Stakeholder Type	Position, Institution	Stakeholder
	Technical Specialist in Climate Change at IICA	Ronny Cascante
	Financial Specialist IICA	Kattia Chaves
	Manager of the Hemispheric Program on Innovation and Bioeconomy at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	Hugo Chavarria Miranda
Producer organization	President of the National Federation of Agricultural and Livestock Producers (FENAGH) of Honduras	José Chacón
	Member of FENAGH's technical team	Alexander Cabrera
	Member of FENAGH's technical team	Javier Barahona
Entity with experience in agricultural innovation and adaptation	President of Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)	Nicolas Bronzovich
Producer organization	National Coordinator of Argentina's Union of Land Workers (UTT)	Nahuel Levaggi
Academic institution	Professor of Climate Action, Zamorano University, Honduras	Diego Obando Bonilla
Producer organization	Representative of the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero (MOCASE), Argentina	Guillermo Durán
	Representative of the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero (MOCASE), Argentina	Diana Cortez

These meetings made it possible to validate and strengthen the Program design by incorporating the experiences and perspectives of the stakeholders consulted. Their contributions helped identify priority needs for the sector—including appropriate financing for adaptive innovations, specialized technical assistance, the effective inclusion of women and youth, and robust mechanisms for community participation, dissemination, and scaling up—as well as common barriers to the formulation and sustainability of climate projects. This consultation process was instrumental in defining the measures and strategic directions ultimately incorporated into the Full Proposal.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS BY STAGE

The following sections describe the consultations conducted by the consulting team and the main results of each consultation.

2.1 WEEKLY STRUCTURING MEETINGS WITH CAF, FONTAGRO, AND IICA

Since the beginning of the consulting assignment, weekly follow-up meetings have been held with CAF, FONTAGRO, and the consulting team. These meetings and consultations with Eugenia Saini, Executive Secretary of FONTAGRO, and the CAF team were fundamental in guiding the structural design of the Program. Their contributions helped consolidate the logic of the components, clarify the appropriate combination of incubation and acceleration, define technology readiness levels (TRLs) that could realistically be achieved within the established time frame, and underscore the importance of incorporating systematic mechanisms for knowledge management, evidence



generation, and dissemination. They also helped refine key budget criteria, including the cost structure by category and the need to ensure consistency among implementation time frames, TRLs, and the resources allocated to technical assistance and monitoring.

The meetings also strengthened the Program's **governance and operational approach** by drawing on FONTAGRO's extensive experience in regional competitive calls and the technical administration of projects. Based on the guidance provided, parameters were established for a clear governance structure among CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO; IICA's procurement and fiduciary role; and the minimum requirements for an efficient technical coordination system. Eugenia Saini's knowledge of digital platforms, evaluation processes, eligibility criteria, and support mechanisms for innovative projects provided critical inputs for structuring a robust operating model aligned with international standards and adapted to the region's specific characteristics.

Similarly, the discussions provided a detailed understanding of FONTAGRO's approach to **environmental and social safeguards** and gender considerations, including the application of the IDB's environmental and social policy and the use of an automated system for classifying projects and reporting indicators. This established experience guided the explicit integration of these issues into the Program design, both in its monitoring and follow-up approach and in the capacity-building support planned for the partnerships, ensuring that supported projects meet the necessary standards for inclusion, risk management, and data quality.

The weekly meetings also helped refine the Program's **targeting and eligibility framework**. Discussions confirmed that the Program should prioritize small- and medium-scale producers in climate-vulnerable territories and support applied innovations capable of producing tangible adaptation benefits within the implementation period. Science–community partnerships were further defined as arrangements combining research capacity, continuous local technical assistance, and the effective participation of producer or community organizations. This structure was considered essential to ensure that innovations respond to locally identified needs, are validated under real-world conditions, and remain connected to the advisory and extension systems required for their adoption and scaling up. The discussions also highlighted the importance of requiring community commitments and Sustainability and Scaling Plans, while allowing communities without legal status to participate through qualified implementing organizations.

The meetings further informed the **design of the competitive selection process**. Participants recommended a single regional call for proposals, supported by an initial eligibility review, independent technical evaluation, conflict-of-interest procedures, and technical interviews where appropriate. Given the Program's limited implementation period, the minimum entry point for incubation was progressively refined to TRL 4, with incubation supporting advancement from TRL 4 to 5 and acceleration supporting progress from TRL 5 to 8. Reaching TRL 9 was considered desirable but not mandatory and could be encouraged through targeted support for particularly successful initiatives. Projects would be expected to complete the incubation and/or acceleration cycle within approximately 24 months, with grant amounts of up to USD 250,000 and a target portfolio of at least 20 projects, subject to the amounts requested by the selected partnerships.

Finally, the consultations strengthened the **Program's approach to demand assessment, technical assistance, and evidence generation**. The participants proposed a regional assessment of producer demand to support the prioritization of adaptation needs and the identification of viable scaling pathways. They also emphasized that partnerships would require differentiated support on climate adaptation, innovation, gender, environmental and social safeguards, monitoring, and financial management. At the project level, the proposed results framework incorporated iterative Test–Learn–Develop cycles and an Innovation Evidence Log to document validation, lessons learned,



and progress toward adoption. These measures were complemented by proposals for hybrid engagement sessions with participating communities, linguistic accessibility—including the use of Indigenous languages where relevant—and a digital marketplace or science–acceleration connection mechanism to increase the visibility, replication, and potential scaling up of successful innovations.

Following the initial review by the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, Kattia Fajardo and Ronny Cascante from IICA participated in a follow-up meeting to address the reviewer's comments. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the IICA team to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Program, engage in the details of its formulation, and provide input to ensure that the implementation budget would be sufficient for the Program to operate effectively.

2.2 INITIAL BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

During December 2025, bilateral meetings were held with key stakeholders, including academic institutions, producer organizations, and entities with experience in agricultural innovation and adaptation—to enrich the Program design. These consultations helped identify territory-specific barriers, capture practical lessons learned, and define effective and culturally appropriate measures. The main needs identified—including adequate financing, specialized technical assistance, the inclusion of women and youth, and robust dissemination and scaling-up mechanisms—were incorporated as essential inputs into the formulation of the Program. The meetings were conducted virtually through Microsoft Teams and focused on experience working with small- and medium-scale producers, engagement with FONTAGRO, effective strategies for ensuring community participation and sustaining science–community partnerships, and barriers to the formulation and long-term sustainability of climate and innovation projects.

A brief summary of the main conclusions from each meeting is presented below. The official minutes of each meeting are included in Annex 2.

- **National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Argentina (INTA), Nicolas Bronzovich (December 8, 2025):** He emphasized the importance of closing technological gaps in fertilization, risk management, and biomass utilization, and proposed the Sistema Chacra model—through workshops, agreements, and documentary evidence—as a mechanism to ensure meaningful producer participation in the co-design process. He noted that the TRL 4–8 range is appropriate for accelerating innovations, while seed-stage projects should be avoided due to time constraints. He also indicated that his experience with FONTAGRO has been positive, although capacity building is needed to support project formulation, and that institutional diversity contributes to better results.
- **National Federation of Farmers and Livestock Producers of Honduras (FENAGH), José Chacón (December 9, 2025):** The Honduran federation, which represents more than 60% of the country's rural producers, highlighted its broad territorial presence and links with scientific institutions, which facilitate science–community partnerships. It identified the limited implementation period (24 months) and the need to tailor funding amounts to different subsectors, such as livestock and coffee, as key challenges. It proposed leveraging existing platforms, including the National Sustainable Livestock Platform, for dissemination and coordination, as well as using existing agreements and networks to formulate viable projects and prioritize adaptive practices with rapid and scalable impact. It also emphasized the need to ensure effective participation through regional roundtables and formal agreements and recognized the opportunity to strengthen adaptive practices in response to droughts and extreme events.



- **Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero, Argentina (MOCASE), Guillermo Durán and Diana Cortez (December 11, 2025):** MOCASE is a strategic stakeholder with experience in project implementation, territorial networks, and partnerships with universities. The participants emphasized agroecological innovation as a central focus and the need for appropriate technologies to scale up existing processes. They identified implementation risks associated with insufficient technical support, institutional weakening, and the high logistical costs of territorially based projects, and recommended that the Program account for these factors to ensure sustainability and replicability. They also recommended strict criteria to prevent fictitious projects and ensure that producers need guide project design. In addition, they highlighted the importance of spaces such as the School of Agroecology for training, the inclusion of youth and women, and the replication of adaptive practices.
- **Union of Land Workers of Argentina (UTT), Nahuel Levaggi (December 11, 2025):** UTT is a strategic stakeholder with a broad territorial presence, extensive experience in agroecology, and the technical capacity to formulate projects. It was emphasized that the organization's transition to agroecology is an innovation in itself and that the Program could support the adoption of appropriate technologies by small-scale producers. Levaggi confirmed that the organization has the technical capacity to formulate projects, supported by well-established participatory processes, partnerships with universities for science–community collaboration, and the active inclusion of women and youth. At the same time, he noted the value of technical assistance in meeting specific requirements. He proposed mechanisms to ensure genuine co-design and prevent funding from being directed to NGOs without a territorial base, recommending the inclusion of evaluation criteria related to representativeness and track record, the design of specific support for project formulation and territorial implementation, and the integration of gender and youth considerations throughout all stages. He also stressed the need to incorporate a gender- and care-sensitive approach, including flexible schedules and childcare arrangements—and strengthen women's economic leadership.
- **Zamorano University of Honduras, Diego Obando Bonilla (December 11, 2025):** The university has strong experience in innovation and acceleration, as well as extensive regional networks. Obando drew on his experience with acceleration initiatives, including AgroHub, and agreed that focusing on innovations at TRL 4–8 is appropriate for reducing risk. He identified cultural barriers such as dependency on external assistance and slow adoption, as well as political changes, and proposed participatory methodologies involving diagnostics, portfolio development, and a combination of scientific and empirical testing. He emphasized the importance of genuine co-design with producers to ensure ownership and enable scaling based on trust and evidence. He also highlighted the importance of gender- and youth-sensitive approaches, stressing that gender strategies should be adapted to the sociocultural context of each territory. In addition, he suggested recognizing ancestral knowledge as a form of innovation—for example, amaranth—through marketing and scientific evidence. He noted that multiculturalism and academic networks are important advantages for scaling solutions.



ANNEX 1 – INITIAL IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Table 2. Stakeholder mapping for consultations during the full proposal preparation stage

Name, institution	Type of consultation
Eugenia Saini, Executive Secretary of FONTAGRO	Interview to learn about FONTAGRO's experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal. Weekly follow-up meetings.
IICA	Interview to learn about IICA's experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal. Weekly follow-up meetings.
Diego Obando, Professor of Climate Action, Zamorano University, Honduras	Interview to learn about his experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal.
Nicolas Bronzovich, National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), Argentina	Interview to learn about his experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal.
Nahuel Levaggi, General Coordinator, Union of Land Workers (UTT), Argentina	Interview to learn about his experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal.
Guillermo Durán, Representative, Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero (MOCASE), Argentina	Interview to learn about his experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal.
José Chacón, President of the National Federation of Agricultural and Livestock Producers (FENAGH), Honduras	Interview to learn about his experience and capacities, present the Program, and gather input to inform the proposal.



ANNEX 2 – OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minute 1: Weekly Follow-up Meeting - Weekly Follow-up Meeting - CAF, FONTAGRO, and Consulting Team

Date: November 19, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

CAF	Viridia Projects
• Miguel Guzmán – Executive Officer, Technical Advisory Directorate for Biodiversity and Climate, Climate Action and Nature-Positive Biodiversity Management • Oscar Guevara – Technical Focal Point to the AF, Climate Action and Nature-Positive Biodiversity Management • Angélica Pino – Portfolio Monitoring and Follow-up Specialist, AF Project Monitoring, Technical Advisory Directorate for Biodiversity and Climate • Carlos Alape – Portfolio Monitoring and Follow-up Assistant • Jhoanna Guiza – Administrative and Management Assistant for Internal Committees	• Laura Abram Alberdi – Technical Director; Green Finance Specialist • Soledad Moreiras – Deputy Technical Director; Climate Project Formulation and M&E Specialist • Guadalupe Meroño – Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Climate-Resilient Agricultural Systems Specialist • Sofía Reibel – Socioeconomic Analysis Specialist
FONTAGRO	
• Eugenia Saini – Executive Director	

Opening and Introductions

- Eugenia Saini (ES) introduces herself as Executive Director of FONTAGRO, a cofinancing fund for R&D&I with its own capital. She explains its governance and regional nature: 15 member countries (14 from LAC + Spain). She notes that FONTAGRO was established in the late 1990s by decision of the IDB Governors; with one membership per country, its capital was invested and now exceeds USD 100 million, while USD 150 million has been cofinanced in technical cooperation and agri-food R&D&I. She clarifies that FONTAGRO finances only member countries (although non-member countries may participate using their own funds), and that its role is to support research and innovation agencies in developing new technologies and knowledge, with the aim of avoiding duplication and accelerating impact. Its focus is to support processes that development banks can later scale up locally (as policies are national).
- Laura Abram Alberdi (LA) thanks her, and the Viridia Projects (VP) and CAF teams proceed with their introductions.

Purpose of the Consulting Assignment and Timeline

- LA provides context: the full proposal for the program “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in LAC” is being developed for submission to the Adaptation Fund under its innovation window (AFCIA), and reviews the timeline:
 - August 2025: submission of CAF’s Expression of Interest (Eoi).
 - October 2025: invitation from the AF to submit a full proposal.
 - November–December 2025: preparation of the full proposal.
 - December 12: target date for submission to CAF; followed by submission to the AF, technical review rounds (with three-week review periods), and consideration by the AF Board.



- LA recalls that the Eol validated the main principles and overall structure; the current task is to further develop the specific processes, eligibility criteria for organizations and projects, arrangements, M&E, and annexes, while adapting the design to FONTAGRO's and IICA's operational procedures.

Cross-Cutting Requirements, Innovation Approach, and Annexes

- Guadalupe Meroño (GM) emphasizes the key issues that must be defined within a short time frame: governance of the aggregator mechanism, financial structure, budget, implementation arrangements, monitoring and evaluation, and annexes (gender; environmental and social). She explains the methodology and the concepts governing the AFCIA window and the AF, including the concept of innovation.

Preliminary Program Design (Components and Phases)

- GM presents the structure comprising three components:
 - Climate innovation accelerator for resilience in the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors in LAC, focused on science–community partnerships and taking projects “from idea to field.”
 - Capacity building (technical assistance, monitoring/follow-up, and safeguards support).
 - Knowledge management and communication (systematization, lessons learned, and open, easily accessible dissemination).
- Two phases are envisaged: Incubation and Acceleration (some incubated projects may move on to acceleration; external projects with a defined level of maturity may also enter the acceleration phase).
- Operational and fiduciary implementation is envisaged through FONTAGRO and IICA, including calls for proposals, allocation of funds, and movement of projects between phases.
- LA and GM emphasize that this is not optional: applications must be submitted through partnerships (science + community), with applied research and validation among producer groups that are the intended recipients of the adaptation benefits.

FONTAGRO's Intervention: Capacities, Platform, and Alignment

- ES proposes making full use of the structures FONTAGRO has already developed in order to avoid creating unnecessary new ones. She explains that FONTAGRO's website is not merely a website but its management platform, reflecting 30 years of work with more than 3,000 organizations and hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries. It is a comprehensive system for project registration, indicators, geolocation, open-access publications, automated pitches (Fontagro Tech), web stories, dashboards, and document standardization, with a focus on avoiding duplication and facilitating cooperation among research groups and donors.
- She explains that FONTAGRO works through a distinctive model: multi-institutional regional consortia (academia, research institutes, producer associations, and the private sector), with a minimum of 2 countries per project and competitive digital processes (application, evaluation, external panels, and criteria pre-approved by its Board of Directors).
- She notes that FONTAGRO has hemispheric linkages and flagship programs, including partnerships with the University of Florida, Cornell University, North Carolina State University, Clemson University, Ohio State University, among others.
- She presents the 6 flagship programs established under the 2025 Strategic Plan:
 - Crop transformation;
 - Livestock systems transformation;
 - Advisory services (extension/technology transfer, the “missing middle”);
 - Robotics and AI (gaps in use and data analysis);
 - The food basket of the future (diversification and nutrition);
 - Evidence-based policies (with banks and decision-makers).
- Technology readiness level (TRL): FONTAGRO finances the middle stages of development (typically TRL 3→6, with some cases reaching TRL 8–9) to avoid supporting basic research



without adoption. Successful examples include Andean fruits exported to Spain, among others. Projects typically last 42–48 months and include an external audit (approximately USD 10,000).

- She offers to share a link to the corporate presentation and a direct contact channel (WhatsApp) for follow-up.

Key Exchanges (Questions, Clarifications, and Alignment)

- **Geographic Scope and Participation of Non-Member Countries**
 - Soledad Moreiras (SM) asks whether countries outside the 15 members may participate. ES confirms that they may, through cofinancing with other donors (e.g., GEF, Government of New Zealand) within the same consortium to ensure cross-country learning.
- **Use of the FONTAGRO Platform**
 - SM asks about the use of the platform for monitoring and reporting. ES confirms that the entire consortium (including non-member countries) uses it, with a technical lead who compiles progress and receives leadership training (champions). Competitive process: an external panel scores the proposals; donors + the Board decide; a subsequent interview is conducted to verify the leadership team's capacities.
- **Innovation as Adoption and the Role of Acceleration**
 - ES reinforces that innovation = effective adoption by society. She proposes acceleration as a central item on the 2026 agenda: connecting consortium leaders who are ready to scale, producers, and entrepreneurs (not only a push from science, but also a pull from the market). She suggests linking this with Flagship 3 (Advisory Services) and experts such as José Cisneros (North Carolina).
- **AFCIA Constraints and Timeline (CAF)**
 - Angelica Pino (AP) frames the timeline: AF approval in April, followed by institutional arrangements (approximately 6 months). A specific call for proposals must be launched for the Program and cannot be combined with another existing call. Maximum grant amount: USD 250,000. There will be grants below USD 250,000; the number that can be managed through FONTAGRO will be assessed and, if necessary, additional co-executing entities will be considered.
 - ES warns that, when working with vulnerable communities, many lack formal structures (e.g., Indigenous communities without bank accounts). She suggests implementation vehicles (institutions operating in the territory) and confirms that FONTAGRO can transfer funds to formally established producer associations (e.g., APRESID received USD 300,000 under a FONTAGRO–IDB agreement).
- **AF Components and Annexes: M&E, E&S, and Gender**
 - LA anticipates that the next session will explore monitoring and evaluation, local capacities, and safeguards (E&S and gender) in greater depth. ES explains that the IDB safeguards system is automated and that FONTAGRO requires technical, environmental, and impact indicators. She proposes that AFCIA adopt these standards and formats (competitive TORs, procurement plan, and document standardization).

Items for Joint Definition (Pending Issues and Next Steps)

- Aggregator governance: how FONTAGRO and IICA will distribute roles (call for proposals, evaluation, allocation, monitoring, fiduciary responsibilities) and how safeguards/gender support will be integrated. (To be agreed in technical working sessions).
- Level of maturity for Incubation/Acceleration and metrics for “concrete adaptation”: agree on thresholds and minimum evidence requirements. (To be defined in the criteria document).
- FONTAGRO's existing capacities: ES suggests reusing the current management platform and established processes; Viridia/CAF will adjust the design to avoid duplication and accelerate implementation. (To be mapped in a dedicated technical session).
- Timeline: Viridia maintains an intensive pace (weekly meetings, staggered deliverables) toward December 12 as the internal submission date to CAF. (Working schedules will be coordinated with the FONTAGRO/IICA teams).

Agreements and Next Steps

- **Viridia:**



- Will incorporate into the draft proposal (**internal submission on December 12**) the **agreements** on consortia, TRLs, competitive TORs, use of the platform, and AF annexes (M&E, E&S, and gender).
- Will prepare a **set of questions** for the next session on **M&E, safeguards, and local capacities**.
- **FONTAGRO:**
 - Will share links and materials (Strategic Plan, call-for-proposals TORs, indicator guidelines, and knowledge management toolkits).
 - Will explore coordination with **Flagship 3 (Advisory Services)** and experts (e.g., José Cisneros) for the **design of the acceleration component**.
- **CAF:**
 - Will continue its **internal administrative coordination** and confirm the restrictions and operational arrangements for the Program-specific call for proposals (following approval).

Meeting Minute 2: Weekly Follow-up Meeting - CAF, FONTAGRO, and Consulting Team

Date: November 26, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

CAF	Viridia Projects
• Miguel Guzmán – Executive Officer, Technical Advisory Directorate for Biodiversity and Climate, Climate Action and Nature-Positive Biodiversity Management • Carlos Alape – Portfolio Monitoring and Follow-up Assistant • Jhoanna Guiza – Administrative and Management Assistant for Internal Committees	• Laura Abram Alberdi – Technical Director; Green Finance Specialist • Soledad Moreiras – Deputy Technical Director; Climate Project Formulation and M&E Specialist • Guadalupe Meroño – Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Climate-Resilient Agricultural Systems Specialist • Sofía Reibel – Socioeconomic Analysis Specialist
FONTAGRO	
• Eugenia Saini – Executive Director	

Review of the Program and Its Components

- Guadalupe Meroño (GM) reviews the Program's central objective:
 - Strengthen the climate resilience of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries systems in LAC through the design, validation, and scaling up of innovative adaptation solutions implemented by small- and medium-scale producers.
- She emphasizes the importance of consistently maintaining the focus on:
 - the target population (small- and medium-scale producers);
 - vulnerable territories;
 - innovation linked to concrete adaptation in the field.
- She reviews the Program's three components:
 - Accelerator (incubation + acceleration);
 - Capacity building (technical assistance + monitoring and follow-up);
 - Knowledge management, awareness raising, and dissemination.

Technical Discussion on Component 1: Incubation, Acceleration, and Scaling Up

- GM emphasizes that the AF does not finance stand-alone research: it must be applied research with tangible results in the field. Partnerships must bring together science + communities/producer organizations.
- Eugenia Saini (ES) interprets subcomponent 1.1.1 as equivalent to FONTAGRO's traditional consortia:



- they may be public–public or public–private;
 - they may include universities, research institutes, foundations, producer associations, etc. She clarifies that the private sector includes producer associations, not commercial companies.
- ES asks for clarification: does acceleration mean completing technological development (“the last mile”), or territorial scaling up (more producers, more contexts)?
 - GM, followed by José Pedro Alberti (JP), agrees that it means both, depending on the TRL at which the proposal enters.
 - JP explains the expected progression by TRL:
 - Incubation → moving from TRL 2 to a functional prototype (TRL 5).
 - Acceleration → moving from functional prototypes toward validation under real-world conditions (TRL 8).
 - Miguel Guzmán (MG) proposes that, in order to meet the time frame (24–30 months), the entry TRL should not be 1 or 2, but at least TRL 3–4. He notes that this will need to be negotiated with the Adaptation Fund.

How to Ensure the Participation of Vulnerable Communities and Define Eligibility Criteria

- **Legal Status and Community Participation**
- Soledad Moreiras (SM) raises the issue of including vulnerable communities without legal status.
- ES clarifies that, with implementation through IICA, this is not a requirement:
 - the community does not receive funds;
 - it receives inputs, technical assistance, and support.
- She provides successful examples involving Indigenous communities in Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.
- **Community Representation Mechanisms**
- ES explains the FONTAGRO mechanism:
 - identification of lead researchers validated by the Scientific Committee;
 - letters of commitment from communities;
 - always working with 2–3 communities per country to mitigate risks (political changes, leadership changes, etc.).
- **Suggested Tripartite Structure**
- Based on the discussion, it is agreed that projects should include three capacities:
 - Research;
 - Local technical assistance;
 - Community participation/producer organizations.

Sustainability, the Last Mile, and the Role of Technical Assistance

- MG identifies a common risk: an innovation may be validated but remain disconnected from the technical assistance system, preventing its adoption. He proposes that projects be required to include an entity that provides continuous technical assistance to ensure transfer and scaling up.
- ES explains that FONTAGRO already requires each project to prepare a Sustainability and Scaling Plan and that this could be incorporated as an AFCIA requirement. She suggests conducting case-by-case assessments through technical interviews after selection.

Proposal to Use FONTAGRO as a “Project Pipeline”

- ES proposes a key strategy to ensure timely implementation and quality:
 - leverage FONTAGRO’s 2026 call for proposals (up to USD 250,000 per project, with a decision expected around July);
 - and its existing portfolio of more than 60 projects with established networks, prior validation, and strong teams.
- The proposal is to use these projects as “Phase 2” within AFCIA, focusing on the last mile and scaling up.



- MG welcomes the idea because it would accelerate implementation timelines and ensure an appropriate initial level of technological maturity. It would also allow the AFCIA call for proposals to remain open to other external stakeholders.

Eligibility Criteria, TRLs, Competitiveness, and Processes

- ES suggests designing a single competitive call for proposals rather than two separate calls (incubation + acceleration), in order to avoid duplicating administrative processes, evaluation panels, and monitoring arrangements.
- She explains how to draft competitive TORs:
 - Program background (CAF–AF–FONTAGRO–IICA);
 - evaluation criteria;
 - reference to FONTAGRO's Strategic Plan;
 - budget limits;
 - validated scientific evidence (a key criterion);
 - procurement plan;
 - legal disclaimers (blacklists, IDB restrictions).
- MG agrees on the need to simplify the process: a single call for proposals focused on acceleration, while allowing a smaller share of expenditures (10–15%) for initial activities where required by the project.

Budget, Timeline, and Operational Feasibility

- ES recalculates the budget and warns that USD 86,000 per project is insufficient for consortia involving three stakeholders and two countries. She suggests amounts of USD 150,000–200,000 per project, with the possibility of reaching the USD 250,000 ceiling. She argues that the following must be taken into account:
 - administrative costs (IICA);
 - reasonable certification of the use of funds;
 - teams distributed across several countries;
 - 24 months of implementation.
- MG considers it realistic to set amounts of USD 200,000 per project and to explore with the AF the option—although uncertain—of increasing the total budget from USD 8 million to USD 10 million.

Component 2 Needs: Technical Assistance, M&E, Safeguards, and Gender

- ES indicates that:
 - USD 200,000 for monitoring and follow-up “is very little”;
 - at least two specialist profiles are required:
 - a technical specialist for scientific monitoring;
 - an administrative and financial specialist for contract management and reporting.
- Sofia Reibel (SR) adds that the AF allows 10% for implementation costs, which could be used to finance this staff.
- ES explains that FONTAGRO uses the IDB's automated safeguards system. She recommends including a safeguards specialist and a gender specialist, who would participate in:
 - drafting the TORs;
 - evaluation panels;
 - annual review of technical reports (ISTA);
 - annual training for project teams.
- LA and GM add that they should also promote equitable participation in workshops and support the documentation of lessons learned.

Component 3: Communication, Knowledge Management, and Digital Platform

- ES recommends simplifying and grouping the activities to avoid oversizing the component:
 - 3.1 Training (climate change, innovation, risks);
 - 3.2 Knowledge management + communication and dissemination.



- ES proposes leveraging FONTAGRO's digital platform, which:
 - functions as a management system;
 - is open source;
 - can be expanded (AI, integration with organizations);
 - could incorporate "marketplace" mechanisms or interactive mapping tools.
- Recommendation: strengthen the existing platform rather than create a new one.
- ES clarifies that recent improvements to the digital platform cost only USD 20,000 and that partnerships with Microsoft/Google could be leveraged.

Next Steps

- Viridia will send a new Program diagram, draft implementation arrangements, and a summary of decisions.
- Next session: the following Tuesday morning; ES is available from 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minute 3: Weekly Follow-up Meeting - CAF, FONTAGRO, and the Consulting Team

Date: December 2, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

CAF	Viridia Projects
• Miguel Guzmán – Responsible Executive, Technical Advisory Directorate for Biodiversity and Climate, Climate Action and Nature-Positive Biodiversity Department • Oscar Guevara – Technical Focal Point for the Adaptation Fund, Climate Action and Nature-Positive Biodiversity Department • Angélica Pino – Portfolio Monitoring and Follow-up Specialist, Adaptation Fund Project Monitoring, Technical Advisory Directorate for Biodiversity and Climate • Carlos Alape – Portfolio Monitoring and Follow-up Assistant • Jhoanna Guiza – Administrative and Management Assistant for Internal Committees	• Laura Abram Alberdi – Technical Director; Green Finance Specialist • Soledad Moreiras – Deputy Technical Director; Climate Project Formulation and M&E Specialist • Guadalupe Meroño – Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Climate-Resilient Agricultural Systems Specialist • Sofía Reibel – Socioeconomic Analysis Specialist
FONTAGRO	
• Eugenia Saini – Executive Director	

Session Objective

- Advance the technical and operational definition of the AFCIA Program's innovation mechanism, specifically regarding:
 - Call for proposals structure.
 - TRLs and phases (incubation/acceleration).
 - Actual project duration.
 - Overall timeline (4 years).
 - CAF–FONTAGRO–IICA governance.
 - Implementation and FI costs.
 - PMU structure.
 - Use of the FONTAGRO digital platform.
 - Workshops and dissemination.
 - Budget requirements.
 - Consultations with external stakeholders and producers.



Call for Proposals Structure: Amounts, TRLs, and Duration

- Guadalupe Meroño (GM) confirms the grant limits:
 - Maximum per project: USD 250,000, with the possibility of lower amounts.
 - The final number of projects will depend on the amount requested by each proposal, but a minimum of 20 projects is proposed.
- Eugenia Saini (ES) recommends applying FONTAGRO's standard model:
 - Publish the total amount available.
 - Maximum number of projects.
 - Maximum amount per project.
 - She suggests replicating the structure used in the 2026 call for proposals (5 projects × USD 250,000).
- TRLs and phases:
 - Incubation is considered TRL 3→5.
 - Acceleration is considered TRL 5→8.
 - All projects must reach TRL 8 within the project implementation period.
- Actual project duration:
 - FONTAGRO recommends 24 months of actual implementation + 6 months for start-up + 6 months for closure, for a total administrative period of approximately 36 months.
 - For AFCIA, 18 months of actual implementation + 6 months + 6 months may be required, depending on the Program's limits.

Program Timeline

- Miguel Guzmán (MG) confirms a 4-year timeframe, taking care not to extend it to 5 years in order to avoid additional operating costs.
- Conceptual timeline:
 - Year 0–0.5: Inception workshop, organization, and launch of the call for proposals.
 - Months 6–30: Grant implementation (incubation/acceleration).
 - Months 30–42: Technical and administrative closure, publications, and events.
- An extension may be requested if strictly necessary.

Duration and Dissemination of the Call for Proposals

- Soledad Moreiras (SM) asks about the application period.
- ES responds:
 - For FONTAGRO regional projects: 3 months.
 - For AFCIA individual projects with partnerships already established: 2 months should be sufficient.

Evaluation: Panel, Eligibility, and Conflicts of Interest

- ES describes FONTAGRO's standard process, which would be applicable to the Program:
 - Initial formal eligibility screening:
 - Legal institution.
 - Country within the Program's geographic scope.
 - Capacity to enter into a contract with IICA, among other requirements.
 - Paid technical panel:
 - Typical fee: USD 4,000 per evaluator.
 - Each evaluator can review up to 30–35 proposals.
 - A competitive selection process may be used.
 - Conflict-of-interest management:
 - Evaluators must disclose any conflicts of interest, and the relevant proposals are reassigned within the panel.
 - ES offers to provide support and potentially serve on the panel, provided there is no conflict of interest.



Number of Calls for Proposals

- Angelica Pino (AP) and GM ask whether there will be 1 or more calls for proposals.
- Conclusion:
 - ONE initial regional call for proposals is recommended to avoid the risk of delays.
 - If funds remain available → a targeted “Phase 2” or a second, smaller call for proposals.
 - Alternative: a Successful Case Competition for the “champions.”

Program Components (Review)

- GM presents a summary for AP’s feedback:
 - Component 1: Accelerator (including incubation).
 - “Science–community partnerships” is retained in the document for submission to the Fund.
 - Component 2: Capacity Building + M&E
 - Technical assistance on climate change, safeguards, gender, and innovation.
 - M&E could be moved to Component 3 (to be assessed).
 - Component 3: Knowledge Management and Dissemination
 - Include competitions, closing dialogues, publications, virtual events, and participation in FONTAGRO workshops.

Governance and Roles of CAF–FONTAGRO–IICA

- Model discussed:
 - CAF – Implementing Entity.
 - FONTAGRO + IICA – Joint Executing Entities.
 - The need for a tripartite Steering Committee (CAF–FONTAGRO–IICA) is established.
 - The Program Coordinator will serve as the Committee’s Technical Secretary and will be responsible for M&E.

Execution Costs, FI, and PMU

- Sofia Reibel (SR), AP, MG, and ES discuss key details:
- Maximum PEC allowed by the Fund: 10% of the project execution cost (for CAF and IICA): USD 727,000 (still to be refined).
- IICA typically charges 8.1% on operational activities, excluding governance and audits.
- Urgent requirement: a detailed line-by-line budget to support negotiations with IICA.
- Roles that may be included as direct costs:
 - Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist.
 - Gender Specialist.
 - Administration and Finance Specialist, depending on whether this is covered by IICA through FI.
 - Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist.
 - M&E Specialist, subject to assessing whether this responsibility should fall under the Coordinator. ES recommends avoiding excessive fragmentation of the team.
 - Coordinator.

FONTAGRO Digital Platform

- No additional investment is required: the platform already supports project-level indicators, geolocation, publications, web stories, dashboards, and dynamic reporting.
- It can be adapted to the Program’s needs without significant additional costs.
- It can be integrated into the Adaptation Fund’s reporting system.
- It is suggested that USD 15,000–20,000 be set aside for a science–acceleration connection module or future enhancements.



Workshops and Dissemination

- FONTAGRO offers to integrate the Program into:
 - Its annual in-person workshop (2026: Costa Rica).
 - Results presentation sessions (2027–2028).
 - Thematic webinars, with several virtual sessions possible.
- Suggested format:
 - 2026 → Introductory panel on acceleration.
 - 2027 → Presentation of progress.
 - 2028 → Presentation of 3–4 selected projects.

Consultations with External Institutions

- The Program requires rapid consultations, this week or next, with:
 - CIAT.
 - Zamorano University.
 - Producers, chambers, and associations.
 - Stakeholders from the acceleration ecosystem linked to FONTAGRO and IICA.
- ES requests an email outlining the specific requirements so that she can facilitate contact.
- MG will also provide suggestions.

Commitments and Next Steps

- Viridia will prepare the preliminary budget for the next meeting (Tuesday).
- Viridia will review the terms of reference for FONTAGRO calls for proposals and prepare an AFCIA draft before finalizing the proposal.
- External institutional outreach: GM will send an email today, and ES will respond the same day.
- Integrate dissemination activities into the 2026–2028 FONTAGRO workshops

Meeting Minute 4: National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Argentina - INTA

Date: December 8, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

INTA	Viridia Projects
• Nicolás Bronzovich – President, INTA	• Guadalupe Meroño – Project Lead; Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Sofía Reibel – Economic Analysis Specialist • Laura Abram Alberdi – Technical Director; Green Finance Specialist

Meeting Context

- Guadalupe presents the program “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in LAC,” funded by the Adaptation Fund and channeled through the AFCIA window, which VP and CAF are designing and formulating. The objective of the Program is to provide grants of up to USD 250,000 for innovative projects that contribute to climate change adaptation in agricultural systems, with an emphasis on small- and medium-scale producers.
- The objectives of the Program are explained:
 - Promote technological and social solutions that respond to climate challenges in the agricultural sector.
 - Strengthen partnerships between science and vulnerable communities, ensuring their active participation in design and implementation.



- Integrate with existing platforms such as FONTAGRO to leverage its experience and networks.
- Details of the Program are also explained:
 - The three components (acceleration/incubation, capacity building, and monitoring–knowledge management).
 - The TRL levels (focused on TRL 4–8).
 - The maximum implementation period of 24 months per project.
 - The Program is implemented by FONTAGRO (call for proposals and technical assistance) + IICA (fiduciary administration).

Main Contributions from Nicolás Bronzovich

- **Technological Gaps and Critical Areas**
 - INTA considers technological innovation and climate adaptation to be inseparable, with concrete examples in crops and digital tools.
 - He identifies **4 priority areas** for closing technological gaps:
 - Good fertilization practices.
 - Risk management.
 - Variable-rate application.
 - Biomass utilization.
 - He proposes that innovation should also include **technologies that have already been tested** in some regions but not in others, in order to accelerate impact.
 - Examples of aligned projects:
 - **Sanfeno Platform** (AI for sunflower phenology).
 - Forage adaptation and pasture management.
 - Genetic improvement of banana, cacao, and coffee for future scenarios.
- **Innovation and Participation Model**
 - He highlights INTA's **Sistema Chacra** as a key mechanism for replicating and scaling up projects across the region:
 - Spaces where producers define problems and priorities.
 - Science and extension services respond through joint working groups.
 - Quarterly or four-monthly meetings with participatory workshops.
 - This model helps ensure genuine **co-design** with vulnerable communities, in line with the Adaptation Fund's requirements.
- **Views on the Program Design**
 - He considers the contribution of **20 projects of USD 250,000** each to be significant for the region and views the financing access mechanism positively.
 - He believes that several projects would be interested in participating in the Program.
 - He suggests:
 - Not limiting the Program to TRL 4–5; technologies at TRL 7–8 should also be included to complete their development.
 - Avoiding seed projects because of their high demand for time and resources.
- **Experience with FONTAGRO**
 - He recognizes that preparing project proposals requires time and resources, but also represents an **opportunity for professionalization**.
 - A key lesson learned is that training in project formulation is essential and that **institutional diversity**, through partnerships across countries and sectors, accelerates results and generates greater value.
- **Ensuring the Participation of Vulnerable Producers**
 - He proposes:
 - **Workshops** or surveys to **assess local challenges** as evidence of participation.
 - Agreements with producer associations and the private sector.
 - Building on existing mechanisms, such as Sistema Chacra, for co-design.



Meeting Minute 6: Bilateral Meeting National Federation of Farmers and Livestock Producers of Honduras – FENAGH

Date: December 9, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

FENAGH	Viridia Projects
• José Chacón – President, National Federation of Farmers and Livestock Producers of Honduras (FENAGH) • Alexander Cabrera – Technical Team Member • Javier Barahona – Technical Team Member	• Guadalupe Meroño – Project Lead; Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Agroclimatic Specialist

Meeting Context

- Guadalupe presents the program “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in LAC,” funded by the Adaptation Fund and channeled through the AFCIA window, which VP and CAF are designing and formulating. The objective of the Program is to provide grants of up to USD 250,000 for innovative projects that contribute to climate change adaptation in agricultural systems, with an emphasis on small- and medium-scale producers.
- The objectives of the Program are explained:
 - Promote technological and social solutions that respond to climate challenges in the agricultural sector.
 - Strengthen partnerships between science and vulnerable communities, ensuring their active participation in design and implementation.
 - Integrate with existing platforms such as FONTAGRO to leverage its experience and networks.
- Details of the Program are also explained:
 - The three components (acceleration/incubation, capacity building, and monitoring–knowledge management).
 - The TRL levels (focused on TRL 4–8).
 - The maximum implementation period of 24 months per project.
 - The Program is implemented by FONTAGRO (call for proposals and technical assistance) + IICA (fiduciary administration).

Main Contributions from José Chacón and Team

- **FENAGH Profile, Partnerships, and Experience**
 - The federation brings together small-, medium-, and large-scale producers, with small-scale producers representing the majority, which is consistent with the Program’s focus.
 - It has a nationwide presence in Honduras and represents a range of sectors, including livestock production (dairy and beef), pig farming, avocado, coffee, and export-oriented crops.
 - They recognize that the concept of an “accelerator” is new to them. The VP team explains this concept, as well as the concept of TRLs, and they see potential for applying it in their context.
 - They do not have direct experience with acceleration or technological innovation programs, but:
 - They implement the MAF Project on low-emission livestock production together with CATIE, Zamorano University, and UNAC.
 - They participate in green taxonomy initiatives aimed at transitioning toward sustainable practices.
 - FENAGH has strong agreements with science and technology institutions:



- Zamorano University, UNAC, and the University of Catacamas.
- FIA Foundation for research.
- Financial institutions such as Confianza, which provides guarantee funds.
- It estimates that 60% of the country's producers are directly or indirectly linked to the federation.
- These partnerships facilitate the development of projects under the science–community model.
- **Views on the Program Design**
 - They consider that USD 250,000 may be insufficient for some sectors, such as coffee and intensive livestock production, but adequate for smaller projects.
 - The 24-month implementation period is perceived as short for introducing significant changes, particularly in relation to complex practices.
 - They suggest that the key will be to clearly define the practices to be accelerated and prioritize those capable of generating rapid impact.
 - Existing agreements and networks should also be leveraged to formulate viable projects.
- **Existing Platforms**
 - They highlight the National Sustainable Livestock Platform, which FENAGH is working to promote:
 - A roundtable and coordination space involving producers, academia, the private sector, government, and international cooperation.
 - It has supported relevant low-carbon sustainable livestock projects since 2010.
 - It serves as a coordination and idea-generation mechanism, with regional roundtables used to identify local needs.
 - There are regional sustainable livestock roundtables that would operate under the national platform, with varying levels of success.
 - Based on the successful experience of this platform, a national platform focused on fruit crops is also being developed because of their export potential.
 - The VP team proposes using this platform for dissemination and coordination of the AFCIA Program.
- **Focus on Adaptation**
 - They recognize that many current actions focus on mitigation, particularly emissions reduction, but understand that the Program prioritizes adaptation.
 - They identify opportunities in:
 - Productive diversification.
 - Changes in practices in response to droughts, extreme rainfall, and water stress.
 - Sustainable livestock production and resilient crops, including coffee and fruit crops.
- **Institutional Commitment**
 - FENAGH expresses its full willingness to participate and contribute its experience in coordination and management.

Meeting Minute 7: Weekly Follow-up Meeting - CAF, FONTAGRO, and the Consulting Team

Date: December 9, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

CAF	Viridia Projects
• Miguel Guzmán – Responsible Executive, Technical Advisory Directorate for Biodiversity and Climate, Climate Action, and Nature-Positive Biodiversity Department • Carlos Alape – Portfolio Monitoring and Follow-up Assistant	• Laura Abram Alberdi – Technical Director; Green Finance Specialist • Soledad Moreiras – Deputy Technical Director; Climate Project Formulation and M&E Specialist • Guadalupe Meroño – Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist



• Jhoanna Guiza – Administrative and Management Assistant for Internal Committees	• José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Climate-Resilient Agricultural Systems Specialist • Sofía Reibel – Socioeconomic Analysis Specialist
FONTAGRO	
• Eugenia Saini – Executive Director	

Session Objective

- Refine the technical, operational, and budgetary design of the AFCIA Program, focusing on:
 - TRL scope and timelines (incubation/acceleration).
 - Regional assessment of producer demand.
 - CAF–IICA–FONTAGRO roles and governance.
 - Procurement/RCI and fiduciary management.
 - PMU/PEC structure and costs, professional fees, and translations.
 - Definition of Component 3 activities (evidence, dissemination, successful cases, and potential advancement to TRL 9).

Programmatic Approach and TRLs

- TRL limits by phase (revised):
 - Incubation: TRL 4→5, with the minimum raised due to time constraints.
 - Acceleration: TRL 5→8; TRL 9 is desirable but not mandatory and may be considered a favorable evaluation criterion and for awards/selective support.
- Technical rationale: reaching TRL 9 requires commercial validation or validation in a real-world environment and may trigger intellectual property considerations. Priority will therefore be given to identifying successful cases that are candidates for TRL 9 and supporting them through Component 3 instruments.

Regional Assessment of Producer Demand

- Proposal: set aside USD 100,000 as an initial reference amount for mapping producer demand in LAC, using a collaborative approach with other partners. Potential co-financing from FONTAGRO and CAF may be considered. The assessment would be conducted digitally through surveys and channels involving research institutes and producer organizations and would be limited to climate adaptation.
- Use and value: provide a basis for public policy narratives, prioritization of needs, and scaling pathways. It will serve as an input for Component 3 on evidence and policy.

Component Structure (Changes)

- Component 1 (Acceleration, including incubation): launch and 2 webinars (dissemination + consultations), competitive evaluation, incubation from TRL 4→5, and acceleration from TRL 5→8. Overall target: complete the cycle within ≤24 months (incubation + acceleration), or direct acceleration within the same timeframe.
- Component 2 (Capacity Building): technical assistance on climate change, safeguards, gender, and innovation for the partnerships, coordinated with the PMU.
- Component 3 (M&E + Knowledge Management and Dissemination): M&E is moved to this component; catalog/marketplace, platform updates, publications, and mechanisms for “champions” (awards or targeted assistance) to support advancement toward TRL 9, subject to available resources.

Budget and PMU (Reference Presented by Sofía Reibel (SR))

- Grants: 20 × USD 250,000 = USD 5,000,000, adjustable based on the actual amounts requested.
- Evaluation panel: 4 evaluators × 1 month × USD 4,000.
- PMU / Reference Professional Fees:



- Technical Coordinator: ES notes that USD 5,000/month is insufficient for a senior profile; recommended range: USD 6,500–10,000, depending on the country and IICA salary scales.
- Specialists (safeguards, gender, adaptation, and M&E): senior profiles according to IICA salary scales; consider optimizing levels of effort.
- Translation and Linguistic Inclusion: USD 12,500/year (approximately USD 37,500 over 3 active years) is accepted as a reasonable order of magnitude. English and, where applicable, Indigenous languages will be covered.
- Hybrid Sessions with Communities: approximately 20 sessions, one per project around the midpoint of implementation, including local logistics and accessibility measures; estimated average of USD 6,200 per session, subject to adjustment.
- Supervision Travel: at least 1 trip per year for 6 people, subject to adjustment based on the budget ceiling.
- Platform: USD 15,000 for an enhancement or new module for the marketplace/science–acceleration connection.

Governance, IICA's Role, and Administrative Costs (RCI/PEC)

- Legal/operational structure: IICA will be the sole legal Executing Entity vis-à-vis CAF; FONTAGRO will act as a delegated technical partner through an internal IICA–FONTAGRO agreement. CAF will remain the Implementing Entity.
- Fiduciary flow: resources will not be transferred to beneficiaries; IICA will manage procurement and contracting in accordance with its policies, which are recognized by CAF. A procurement plan will be required for each project, along with a comparative shortlist of 3 bids. Any direct contracting must be justified through a no-objection memorandum.
- IICA's RCI: the usual practice is 8.1%, applied to operational activities and disbursed proportionally as implementation progresses. FONTAGRO will not receive RCI; the costs of the technical team assigned by FONTAGRO must be covered by the project.
- Allocation of the Coordinator position (impact on PEC): allocating 10% under PEC and 90% under the components will be assessed in order to create additional room within the Adaptation Fund's PEC ceiling.
- Branding and visibility: agreements on the use of logos (CAF, IICA, FONTAGRO, and the Adaptation Fund) should be included in the terms of reference and contracts.

Innovation Indicators and Evidence

- The following will be incorporated into the logical framework:
 - 20/20 projects complete at least 1 Test–Learn–Develop cycle.
 - A mandatory Innovation Evidence Log for each project.
 - Strengthening of capacities for drafting results through workshops and editorial/scientific support.

Funding Proposal Template

- VP notes to CAF that the officially published template does not align with the criteria and formats used in recently approved proposals, such as those from UNIDO and SPC. The team will use the format applied in recently approved projects, and MG will confirm with the Adaptation Fund/CAF whether this format is acceptable.

Next Steps

- Viridia
 - Send the link to Part 1 of the Funding Proposal today or tomorrow.
 - Adjust the components (TRLs, M&E under Component 3, webinars, and marketplace).
 - Refine the budget:
 - Coordinator scenario of USD 6,500–10,000; 90/10 allocation options (components/PEC).
 - Include USD 100,000 for the demand assessment.
 - Detail translation and linguistic inclusion costs.



- Further specify hybrid sessions and travel.
- CAF
 - Confirm with the Adaptation Fund the applicable template and the possibility of a financial services window.
 - Coordinate with IICA (H. Chavarria) on RCI and PEC guidelines and the procurement flow.
- FONTAGRO
 - Provide technical inputs, including IICA professional fee scales by range, procurement plan templates, evidence/results guidelines, and logo requirements.
 - Validate the platform module for the marketplace and monitoring.
- All
 - Finalize the package for review before Monday and prepare the version for submission to the Adaptation Fund.

Meeting Minute 8: Bilateral Meeting - Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero – MOCASE

Date: December 11, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

MOCASE	Viridia Projects
• Guillermo Durán – Representative, Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero, Argentina (MOCASE) • Diana Cortez – Representative, Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero, Argentina (MOCASE)	• Guadalupe Meroño – Project Lead; Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Agroclimatic Specialist

Meeting Context

- Guadalupe presents the program “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in LAC,” funded by the Adaptation Fund and channeled through the AFCIA window, which VP and CAF are designing and formulating. The objective of the Program is to provide grants of up to USD 250,000 for innovative projects that contribute to climate change adaptation in agricultural systems, with an emphasis on small- and medium-scale producers.
- The objectives of the Program are explained:
 - Promote technological and social solutions that respond to climate challenges in the agricultural sector.
 - Strengthen partnerships between science and vulnerable communities, ensuring their active participation in design and implementation.
 - Integrate with existing platforms such as **FONTAGRO** in order to leverage its experience and networks.
- Details of the Program are also explained:
 - The three components (acceleration/incubation, capacity building, and monitoring–knowledge management).
 - The TRL levels (focused on TRL 4–8).
 - The maximum implementation period of 24 months per project.
 - The Program is implemented by FONTAGRO (call for proposals and technical assistance) + IICA (fiduciary administration).

Main Contributions from Guillermo Durán and Diana Cortez

- **Views on the Program Design**
 - Guillermo considers the proposal interesting and necessary but raises questions about how projects should originate: should they emerge from scientific institutions or from engagement with communities?



- Guadalupe clarifies that the requirement is genuine co-design between science and communities, with concrete adaptation results.
- **Previous Experience and Areas of Work**
- Diana mentions research on forage adaptation:
 - Enclosures to identify native grasses resistant to temperature changes.
 - Use of prickly pear cactus as forage, including studies on digestibility and water content (UNCE).
- These practices have been developed with the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) and UNCE and could be replicated and scaled up in other areas.
- Guillermo and Diana agree that the Program could help advance these lines of work from pilot testing to more systematic projects.
- **Experience in Management and Proposal Development**
- MOCASE has **extensive experience in international cooperation** (EU, embassies) on food sovereignty, as well as in projects using logical frameworks and projects financed through national funds.
- They have not worked with FONTAGRO but consider it feasible to adapt to the proposed mechanism.
- They note that **proposal development is not the main challenge**; rather, the key difficulties are **implementation in the territory** and the lack of technical support.
- **Barriers and Challenges**
- **Technical support**: concern about the absence of public institutions (INTA, Secretariat of Family Agriculture) that previously provided support.
- **Logistics and hidden costs**: Diana warns that, in previous projects (e.g., cisterns), logistics accounted for up to **50% of the budget** and were underestimated during project design.
- **Sustainability**: risk of projects ending without continuity; need to consider **genuine replicability and scalability**, as well as demonstrative and applicable pilots.
- **Institutional anchoring**: uncertainty regarding the role of national agencies in Argentina; they suggest involving **provincial governments and municipalities** as counterparts for logistics and support.
- **Innovation and Sustainability**
- Diana highlights the **School of Agroecology** as a **natural incubation** space:
 - It has made it possible to validate practices such as beekeeping and cisterns before scaling them up.
 - It serves as a laboratory for youth and women, with an agroecological approach.
- She emphasizes the importance of adding value at the source to ensure economic sustainability:
 - For example, espadrille and preserves projects face bottlenecks due to logistical costs and the lack of productive value chains.
- She suggests that the Program could **support critical links** in the value chain to improve profitability and long-term continuity.
- **Social Inclusion**
- MOCASE addresses gender and youth as **cross-cutting** issues:
 - High participation of women and youth in assemblies and production activities.
 - The School of Agroecology serves as a key space for technical and political training.
- They see an opportunity for the Program to **strengthen the economic empowerment** of women and youth through innovative projects.



Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

UTT	Viridia Projects
Nahuel Levaggi – National Coordinator, UTT	- Guadalupe Meroño – Project Lead; Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist - José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist - Eva Rivera del Cid – Agroclimatic Specialist - Sofía Reibel – Economic Specialist - Laura Abram Alberdi – Technical Director; Green Finance Specialist

Meeting Context

- Guadalupe presents the program “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in LAC,” funded by the Adaptation Fund and channeled through the AFCIA window, which VP and CAF are designing and formulating. The objective of the Program is to provide grants of up to USD 250,000 for innovative projects that contribute to climate change adaptation in agricultural systems, with an emphasis on small- and medium-scale producers.
- The objectives of the Program are explained:
 - Promote technological and social solutions that respond to climate challenges in the agricultural sector.
 - Strengthen partnerships between science and vulnerable communities, ensuring their active participation in design and implementation.
 - Integrate with existing platforms such as FONTAGRO to leverage its experience and networks.
- Details of the Program are also explained:
 - The three components (acceleration/incubation, capacity building, and monitoring–knowledge management).
 - The TRL levels (focused on TRL 4–8).
 - The maximum implementation period of 24 months per project.
 - The Program is implemented by FONTAGRO (call for proposals and technical assistance) + IICA (fiduciary administration).

Main Contributions from Nahuel Levaggi

- **UTT Profile**
 - A national organization representing 25,000 producer families.
 - Main areas of work: production, marketing, gender, education, and health.
 - Strong focus on agroecology as a model for transforming the agro-industrial system.
- **Experience in Innovation**
 - Although it is not always formally described as “innovation,” the agroecological transition promoted by UTT is considered a major innovation.
 - UTT has previously received funding for projects related to agroecology, food sovereignty, and territorial development.
 - He highlights the need for appropriate technology to move from artisanal production to larger scales while preserving the organization’s political and social approach.
- **Barriers to Accessing Funding**
 - UTT does not face major barriers in project development and management due to its organizational structure and consolidated technical team.
 - He recognizes that smaller organizations do face difficulties in project development and management.
 - He considers the technical support envisaged under the Program valuable for ensuring that projects meet the Fund’s specific requirements.
- **Financing Mechanism**



- He understands that the call for proposals will be managed by FONTAGRO, with technical assistance for proposal development. UTT has no previous experience with FONTAGRO.
 - He emphasizes the importance of projects being co-designed by producer organizations and scientific institutions, such as INTA and universities.
 - He notes that UTT has links with institutions such as Arturo Jauretche University, with which it develops diploma programs in agroecology, as an example of a potential science–community partnership for submitting proposals.
- **Ensuring Genuine Participation**
- UTT operates through monthly assemblies and ongoing participatory processes, ensuring that producers’ needs guide project design.
 - He warns of the risk that funding may go to NGOs that exist only on paper and lack a genuine territorial presence, and proposes:
 - Assessing the organizations’ track record and representativeness.
 - Requiring evidence of territorial work and the number of producers involved.
 - He suggests that the evaluation committee should apply clear criteria and have knowledge of the territory to prevent fictitious projects.
- **Inclusion of Women and Youth**
- He notes that training should be scheduled at times compatible with caregiving responsibilities and proposes including childcare spaces in training activities.

Meeting Minute 10: Bilateral Meeting - Zamorano University

Date: December 11, 2025

Format: Virtual (Teams)

Participants

Zamorano University	Viridia Projects
• Diego Obando Bonilla – Professor of Climate Action, Zamorano University	• Guadalupe Meroño – Project Lead; Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist • José Pedro Alberti – Climate Adaptation Innovation Specialist • Eva Rivera del Cid – Agroclimatic Specialist • Sofía Reibel – Economic Specialist

Meeting Context

- Guadalupe presents the program “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in LAC,” funded by the Adaptation Fund and channeled through the AFCIA window, which VP and CAF are designing and formulating. The objective of the Program is to provide grants of up to USD 250,000 for innovative projects that contribute to climate change adaptation in agricultural systems, with an emphasis on small- and medium-scale producers.
- The objectives of the Program are explained:
- Promote technological and social solutions that respond to climate challenges in the agricultural sector.
 - Strengthen partnerships between science and vulnerable communities, ensuring their active participation in design and implementation.
 - Integrate with existing platforms such as FONTAGRO to leverage its experience and networks.
- Details of the Program are also explained:
- The three components (acceleration/incubation, capacity building, and monitoring–knowledge management).
 - The TRL levels (focused on TRL 4–8).
 - The maximum implementation period of 24 months per project.



- The Program is implemented by FONTAGRO (call for proposals and technical assistance) + IICA (fiduciary administration).

Main Contributions from Diego Obando Bonilla

➤ Experience in Innovation and Acceleration

- Zamorano University works on similar projects with the IDB, including AgroHub, which also involves the acceleration of innovations and capacity building, with targets through 2027.
- He observes that **organizations are currently seeking innovations at TRL 4 or above in order** to meet indicators and accelerate adoption. He considers this approach logical because it **reduces risks and increases the likelihood of success**.

➤ Barriers Identified

- **Institutional barriers:** bureaucratic processes and political changes. For example, in Honduras, the electoral context and lack of an orderly transition create uncertainty and slow down projects.
- **Cultural barriers:**
 - Dependency on **external assistance:** producers expect immediate material benefits, which affects genuine adoption.
 - Cases in which inputs provided (drip irrigation systems, tanks) are sold or used for other purposes after the project ends.
- **Slow adoption:** non-pioneer producers wait to see results among neighboring producers before adopting innovations.

➤ Strategies to Ensure Participation and Success

- **Co-design** from the outset: essential for building trust and ensuring relevance.
- He mentions successful experiences such as the CGIAR **Innova Hubs** in Mexico:
 - Participatory assessment (farm plot and community).
 - Portfolio of adapted options.
 - Robust testing with scientific evidence + empirical validation in the field.
 - Scaling up based on spontaneous adoption (producers are convinced by results observed among neighboring producers).
- He recommends methodologies that combine technical rigor with sustained social processes, while acknowledging the challenge posed by the **limited time** available in this type of program.

➤ Social Inclusion and Gender Approach

- Zamorano University has worked on gender mainly through graduate-level projects and in the social field; he recognizes that further work is needed at the territorial level.
- He warns that **poorly managed activism may generate resistance** (e.g., gender workshops that trigger cultural opposition).
- He suggests **gradual and context-sensitive** approaches to avoid barriers and ensure women's participation.
- He recognizes that many women are **invisible leaders**: they manage accounts, participate in training, and play a key role in innovation.

➤ Youth and Innovation

- Recent projects include a focus on **youth and young women** because of their greater openness to change.
- Example: an initiative under development for a **climate early warning** app targeting youth in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

➤ Indigenous Communities and Ancestral Practices

- Participation depends on the project and territory (e.g., the Ch'orti' community in Guatemala).



- He notes the loss of traditional practices and foods for cultural reasons (e.g., amaranth and quelites), which affects food systems.
 - He proposes **revaluing ancestral knowledge as innovation** (e.g., transforming amaranth into energy bars with modern marketing).
- He emphasizes that innovation does not always involve high technology; it may also consist of **adding value to traditional practices through scientific evidence and market strategies**

Annex III. GENDER ASSESSMENT

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1. Introduction

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

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

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

It is important to highlight that the gender approach incorporates an intersectional perspective. This perspective makes visible the multiple systems of domination and, therefore, the overlapping forms of oppression that individuals may experience. Accordingly, it is neither sufficient nor effective to incorporate a gender perspective in isolation from ethnic, class, or other social differences; rather, it is necessary to integrate and deepen these perspectives to understand the specific impacts these intersecting forms of oppression have on people’s lives. This simultaneity and integrality represent a significant challenge for public policies that seek to recognize this complex web of identities, which are often contradictory. One of the main challenges lies in the limited availability of disaggregated data and the need for technical capacities to analyze multiple dimensions of inequality. However, the benefits are substantial, as intersectionality enables the design of more effective, equitable, and culturally relevant adaptation interventions, improves resource targeting, and ensures that climate measures respond to the diverse realities of women and historically marginalized groups. This perspective strengthens the effectiveness, sustainability, and fairness of climate actions¹.

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

2. Methodology

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

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

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



2.1. Research and documentary análisis of secondary sources

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

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

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

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

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



3.1 Relevant International Protocols and Frameworks

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

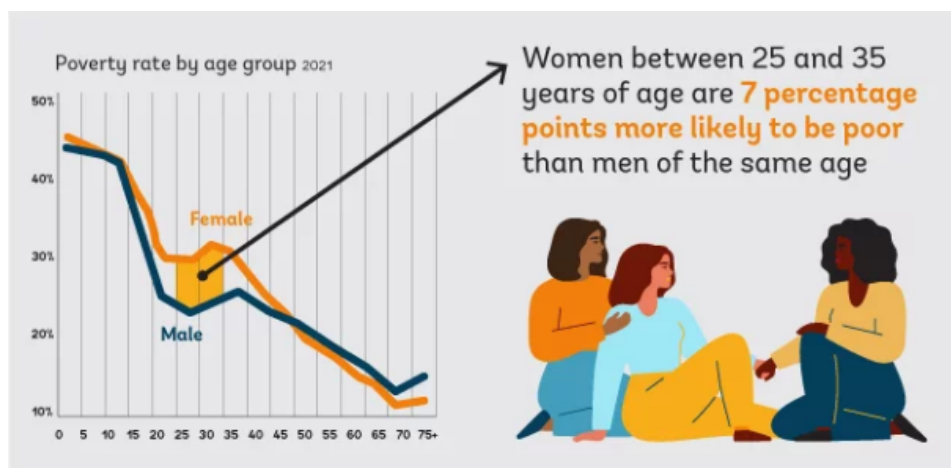
Over recent decades, the **Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAMs)** that emerged from the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action, as the governing bodies for national gender equality policies, have played a fundamental role in promoting gender equality and women's rights. According to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

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

4. Poverty

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

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



Source: World Bank⁴

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

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



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

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

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

5. Education

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

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

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

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

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

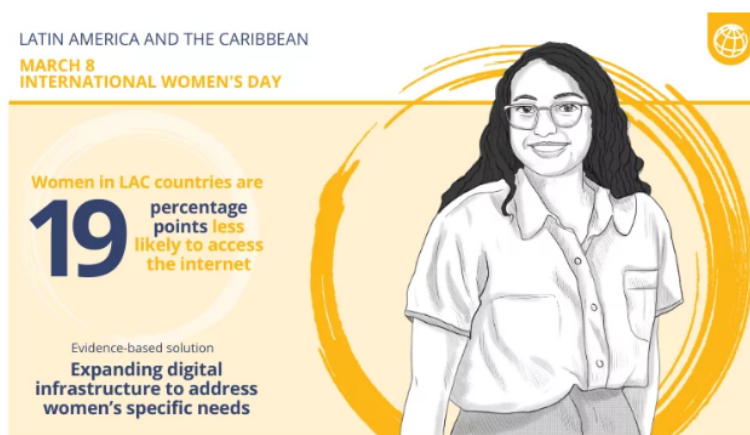


resilience and the innovation capacity of female-led productive units. Gender disparities in internet access reach up to 19 percentage points, although countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Belize have managed to close this gap.

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

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

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



Source: World Bank⁷

In several countries, this overrepresentation is even more pronounced: in Argentina and Uruguay, the female-to-male ratio at the tertiary education level exceeds 1.4, while in the Dominican Republic and Suriname it approaches 1.5. According to UNESCO data, this reflects a clear reversal of the gender gap in university access in favor of women⁸.

An analysis by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the LAC region⁹ shows that among people aged 25–34, the proportion of those who have completed tertiary education is higher for women than for men, with a gap of more than 5.2 percentage points in favor of women in Latin America and more than 8.4 percentage points in the Caribbean.

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

⁶ World Economic Forum "This is how Latin American women came to be more educated than men", 2023. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2023/04/women-s-education-gender-gap-latin-america/>

⁷ <https://www.bancomundial.org/es/region/lac/brief/country-gender-profiles-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

⁸ TheGlobalEconomy.com, UNESCO. Ratio of female to male students in tertiary education, 2022. Available at:

https://es.theglobaleconomy.com/rankings/Female_to_male_ratio_students_tertiary_level_educ/

⁹ <https://www.iadb.org/en/blog/gender-gaps-education-caribbean-are-girls-doing-better-boys>



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

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

6. Women's health

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

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

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

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

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



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

7. Violence against women

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

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

The ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory¹² reports that in 2024 at least 3,828 women were victims of femicide or gender-related violent deaths in 26 countries and territories across the region. This is equivalent to **11 women killed per day and more than 19,000 femicides recorded over a five-year period**. Data from 2024 show that femicide represents the most extreme expression of a continuum of violence affecting women in all areas of their lives. During that year, 14 countries reported 5,502 attempted femicides, highlighting the progression of violent behaviors that can culminate in murder and underscoring the importance of strengthening early warning systems, assessing the risk of lethal violence, and ensuring timely institutional responses to prevent all forms of femicidal violence. Strengthening access to justice and improving institutional responses are essential to preventing gender-based violence. ECLAC emphasizes that the persistence of these crimes in the region demands timely responses and an urgent acceleration of the transformations needed to address this challenge.

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

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

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

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

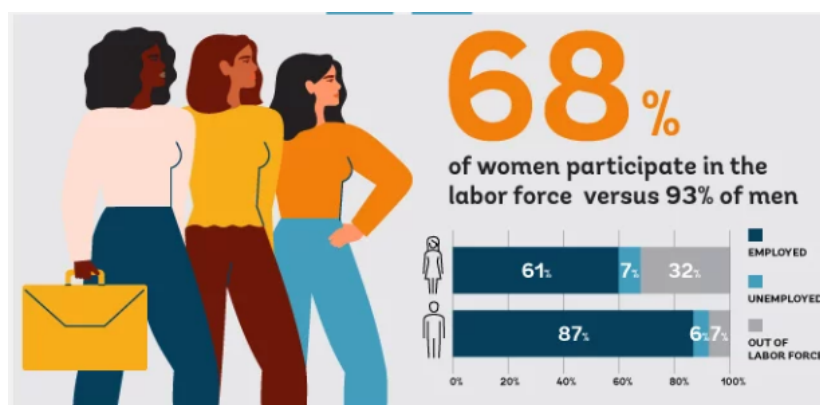
¹² Press Release from ECLAC: "At least 19,254 femicides have been recorded in the last five years in Latin America and the Caribbean," November 2025. Available at: <https://www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/cepal-al-menos-19254-feminicidios-se-han-registrado-ultimos-cinco-anos-america-latina>



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

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

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

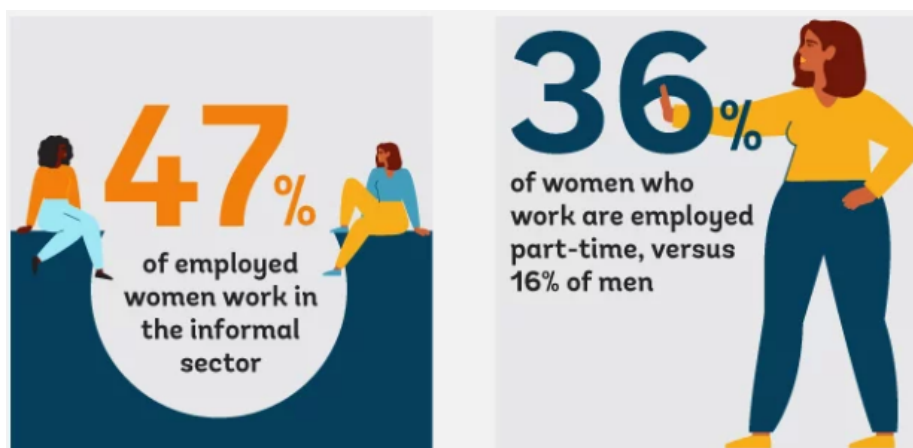


Source: World Bank

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

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

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



Source: World Bank

Regarding women's entrepreneurship, the region simultaneously exhibits a high presence of women willing to take the step into entrepreneurial activity, alongside strong barriers—such as those highlighted throughout this analysis—that hinder their progression and growth. Latin America and the Caribbean has consolidated itself as the region with the highest rates of female entrepreneurship in the world yet still faces pronounced gaps in access to resources and business growth. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2024 Report¹³ approximately 21% of new businesses in the region are started by women, and 33% of entrepreneurial intentions are also female. In addition, the report shows that women in the region place the greatest emphasis on sustainability in their ventures: 72.8% state that sustainability is central to their business model.

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

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

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

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

¹³ Women's Entrepreneurship Report, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2023/2024 Available at:

<https://www.gemconsortium.org/report/202324-womens-entrepreneurship-report-reshaping-economies-and-communities-2>

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



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

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

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

9. Indigenous peoples and gender inequalities in Latin America

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the world. According to estimates by ECLAC¹⁵, more than 58 million Indigenous peoples live in the region, distributed across at least 826 distinct peoples, with a particularly strong presence in Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, and Panama. These peoples maintain knowledge systems, traditional agricultural practices, and forms of territorial management that are strategic for climate adaptation. However, they face structural inequalities that are expressed more intensely in the lives of Indigenous women.

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

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

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

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

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

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



intersecting forms of discrimination¹⁷ – as noted above, being a woman, Indigenous, and rural entails facing simultaneous barriers in political representation, community participation, and access to basic services-.

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

Considering that, under the project “Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science–Community Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean”, the specific initiatives, countries and territories to be supported by the Accelerator have not yet been defined, as they will emerge through the call for proposals and the subsequent selection process conducted by the evaluation committee, it is not possible to establish ex ante uniform participation or benefit targets for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant populations or other minority / culturally differentiated groups. The relevance of these groups, as well as the definition of specific measures and targets, will depend on their actual presence in the countries and territories where the selected proposals are implemented.

Accordingly, the programme's gender and inclusion approach establishes that each supported project will be required to conduct an initial gender and social inclusion assessment, taking into account, as relevant to the territorial context, variables related to sex, age, ethnic-racial identity, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant populations, vulnerability status and other forms of exclusion relevant to the context. This assessment will help identify gaps, barriers to access and participation, and define context-specific inclusion targets and indicators where applicable.

10. Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

According to the ILO report, youth employment remains one of the region's greatest challenges. Although the average youth unemployment rate continued to decline, it remains very high, dropping from 14.5% in 2023 to 13.8% in 2024. Despite this slight improvement, the labor challenges facing young people are still evident. The youth unemployment rate is nearly three times higher than that of adults. The lack of stable, paid employment, combined with high informality and low wages, limits the social mobility opportunities for this group. In this context, the need to fully and sustainably integrate young people into the formal labor market presents a significant challenge.

On the other hand, young cohorts, particularly women, have achieved higher levels of education than previous generations in the region. The World Economic Forum documents that in several countries, young women surpass men in access to tertiary education, confirming a reversal of the traditional educational gap. However, significant territorial and quality inequalities persist. Rural, indigenous, and Afro-descendant youth face higher rates of educational lag, school dropout, and difficulties in accessing relevant technical training, especially in agriculture, environmental management, and digital technologies, as highlighted in the regional study by IICA on gender, agriculture, and climate change. Adding to this is the digital divide—limited access

¹⁷ Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean: Trapped in Inequality. UNDP, 2021. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/es/latin-america/informe-regional-de-desarrollo-humano-2021>



to the internet, devices, and digital skills—which exacerbates these disparities and restricts the participation of rural youth in innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems¹⁸.

In the rural and agricultural sector, the situation of young people is particularly critical, yet simultaneously full of potential. Studies by IICA and other agencies show that rural youth face difficulties in accessing land, credit, technical assistance, and connectivity, which encourages migration and accelerates the aging of rural areas¹⁹. However, these same studies highlight the key role of rural youth as change agents in the transformation of agrifood systems, as they drive agroecological practices, recover ancestral knowledge, incorporate digital technologies, and promote green and circular enterprises. In the Caribbean and other areas highly exposed to climate change, young people are on the front lines facing extreme events, loss of livelihoods, and environmental degradation. At the same time, they are active in networks and movements that demand climate justice and equitable access to financing and innovation²⁰.

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

11. Gender and Sustainable Development Goals

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

The 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015 by the 193 Member States of the United Nations (UN); therefore, all Latin American countries have formally committed to it. To monitor its implementation, countries may voluntarily submit a Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN. Between 2016 and 2025, 32 of the 33 countries in the region submitted at least one VNR²¹, indicating a high level of institutional commitment to the Agenda, although progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been uneven.

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

¹⁸ <https://juventudesrurales.iica.int/>

¹⁹ Rural Youth, Leading the Present of Agriculture, IICA, 2024. Available at: <https://juventudesrurales.iica.int/en/las-juventudes-rurales-liderando-el-presente-de-la-agricultura%ef%bf%bc/>

²⁰ Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean, Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez, CLACSO, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2020. Available at: <https://biblioteca-repositorio.clacso.edu.ar/bitstream/CLACSO/11495/1/Cambio-climatico-impactos.pdf>

²¹ Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Available at: https://agenda2030lac.org/en/voluntary-national-reviews-vnr?utm_source=chatgpt.com



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

Regarding the state of institutionalization on gender, CC, and agriculture in ALC, a report by PNUD and UNISDR²⁴ for the ALC region shows that although many countries have national mechanisms to integrate a gender perspective, these have not yet been mainstreamed into policies and strategies for disaster risk reduction (PNUD et al., 2015:1). For example, in ALC, 20% of the countries reported progress in incorporating gender issues into their disaster risk management policies, 23% of the countries reported having adopted measures to include a gender-based approach in recovery efforts, and 15% of the countries reported having conducted capacity and vulnerability assessments disaggregated by sex (PNUD et al., 2015:1). Only eight countries in the region (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru) have incorporated gender as a cross-cutting dimension within the regulatory frameworks for disaster risk reduction, and even when gender-sensitive approaches are integrated, women are still underrepresented in senior positions within decision-making spheres (PNUD, 2015:175).

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

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

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

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

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force in March 1994. The objective of the Convention is to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the

²² "Regional Study on Gender, Agriculture, and Climate Change: Status and Perspectives from Institutional Frameworks in Latin America," IICA, 2016. Available at: https://www.cac.int/sites/default/files/IICA_-_UE_G%C3%A9nero_Agricultura_y_CC_2015.pdf

²³ The countries considered in this study were Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela..

²⁴ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).



atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The Convention establishes a general framework for intergovernmental efforts to address the challenges posed by climate change. Gender issues were not mentioned in this convention.

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

This same document presents a chronology highlighting the progress achieved at each COP²⁶:

- COP 16 (Cancún, Mexico, 2010) 'urges the Parties to pay attention to the causes of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure, forest governance, gender considerations, and safeguards that ensure the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities' (Arana, 2017).
- COP 17 (Durban, South Africa, 2011) called on the Parties to ensure that gender considerations are respected in the safeguards.
- COP 18 (Doha, Qatar, 2012) laid the foundation for systematically considering gender equality within the framework of the UNFCCC by deciding to make it a permanent issue of the COP (Decision 23 / CP 18).
- COP 19 (Warsaw, Poland, 2013) proposed defining a biennial work plan with specific activities to assess the capacities, sensitivity, budgets, methodologies, and instruments of the Parties to address climate change from a gender perspective.
- COP 20 (Lima, Peru, 2014) marked the first real concern about the gender dimension with the proposal of the Lima Work Programme on Gender.²⁷ Here, the Parties reached a consensus on a gender-sensitive climate change policy, which was binding and applied to all areas of the negotiations. This involved reviewing the mandates approved by the Convention related to gender.
- The Paris Agreement of 2015 acknowledges the links between climate change, gender equality, and women's empowerment. The agreement also stipulates that adaptation initiatives and capacity-building efforts must take gender issues into account, but it entirely abstracts from the gender dimension in the sections on mitigation, technology, and financing.
- COP 23 (Bonn, Germany, 2017) Gender Action Plan, to be developed over two years.
- COP 25 (Madrid, Spain, 2019) Gender Action Plan 2025, to be developed over five years.
- COP 27 (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2022) was heavily criticized by human rights organizations for being hosted in Egypt, due to the country's poor human rights record, especially regarding issues related to the LGBTQ+ community. Amnesty International urged the governments participating in COP 27 to use the opportunity to pressure Egyptian authorities to make significant progress on human rights issues. They emphasized that COP 27 was an appropriate platform to promote the safe, meaningful, and effective participation of both Egyptian and non-Egyptian civil society actors in the country.

²⁵ "Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean," Jacqueline Laguardia Martínez, CLACSO, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2020..

²⁶ In the document "Climate Change and its Impacts on the Greater Caribbean," information is provided up to COP 27. The details mentioned about COP 28, COP 29, and COP 30 are produced by the consulting team based on official sources.

²⁷ The program includes a mapping of decisions and conclusions adopted on gender and climate change with the purpose of identifying areas of progress, potential gaps, and areas where support and collaboration are needed.



- COP 28 (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2023) approved the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership²⁸ — an agreement in which over 60 countries committed to incorporating a gender approach into their climate actions, promoting 'just and inclusive transitions' that recognize the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, girls, indigenous peoples, rural communities, and those in vulnerable situations. The agreement includes concrete commitments: full and meaningful female participation in decision-making, women's leadership, equitable access to climate finance, gender-sensitive budgeting policies, protection of rights, social services, access to decent employment, social security, protection from violence, care, well-being, and more. In this way, the declaration of the Partnership and the commitments of COP 28 reaffirm international frameworks such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the enhanced Lima Gender Work Programme, and its Gender Action Plan within the UNFCCC, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 5) as part of the way forward. This consolidates a normative/climatic approach that recognizes that climate change is not gender-neutral: its impacts, risks, and solutions require differentiated, sensitive, and inclusive policies.
- COP 29 (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2024) saw the Parties decide to extend the Gender Work Programme — Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and Climate Change — for another 10 years. A new gender action plan was decided to be initiated, with design work starting in 2025. A 'Gender Equality Day' was held, featuring both high-level dialogues and technical discussions. The goal was to highlight the importance of incorporating gender considerations into the transparency framework of the convention — including the possibility of capturing learnings and needs in the 'global stocktake' and in the NDCs. The disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls — especially in rural and indigenous territories — were more strongly emphasized, reinforcing the argument that climate policies need a gender justice approach.
- COP 30 (Belém, Brazil, 2025) formally adopted a new Gender Action Plan: the Belém Gender Action Plan 2026-2034, as a result of the process initiated at COP 29. The commitment to align climate action with social protection, human rights, equity, and inclusion was reaffirmed, and the decisions made (Belém Package) included explicit references to 'just transition, adaptation, fair financing, gender, and technology,' providing a renewed institutional framework that integrates gender into global climate action. UN Women launched a monitoring tool to assess how countries integrate gender equality into their climate policies, covering dimensions such as health, economic security, and gender-based violence.²⁹

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

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

- **Sustainability Reports:** These have become a key tool for companies to document their commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development. These reports allow organizations to be transparent about how they manage the social, environmental, and governance impacts resulting from their decisions and operations, incorporating a human rights approach and respect for the environment. In some countries, reporting is mandatory for companies of a certain size³⁰; in others, where no specific regulations exist, companies adopt international reference frameworks to report their

²⁸ <https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-gender-responsive-just-transitions-and-climate-action-partnership>

²⁹ <https://lac.unwomen.org/es/stories/noticia/2025/11/acelerar-una-transicion-justa-onu-mujeres-lanza-monitoreo-de-igualdad-de-genero-y-politicas-climaticas>

³⁰ As an example, Brazil incorporated the 2023 International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Sustainability Disclosure Standards of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) into the Brazilian regulatory framework. These standards will be voluntary starting in 2024 and mandatory as of January 1, 2026.



performance and progress in ESG matters³¹. This transition means that organizations are no longer evaluated solely on their financial results, but also on their contribution to the well-being of people and the sustainability of the territories where they operate. In this process, tools that integrate gender equality and a care approach become particularly relevant.

- **Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs):** In 2010, UN Women and the Global Compact³² created the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)³³, to provide companies with a guiding platform on how to promote a gender approach. The WEPs constitute the largest global platform for business action in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Currently, more than 10,000 companies worldwide are committed to these principles, including over 2,500 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within this framework, the principles promote, among other aspects, shared social responsibility and care in the business sector; an expert team designs and implements specific actions for companies in the region.
- **ISO Gender Equality Standard 53800:2024:** ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is a global federation composed of 172 national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). ISO standards are the result of international consensus among experts and can be defined as formulas that describe the best way of doing something. The purpose of ISO Guide 53800:2024 is to provide guidelines, definitions, procedures, and tools to public and private organizations to promote, support, and guide sustainable progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, both internally and externally. Its objective is to provide guidance to organizations in meeting their obligations with regard to gender equality and the UN 2030 Agenda (in particular, SDG 5). This guide recognizes, within its guidance, the need for organizations to address shared responsibility for care work, thereby reducing the burden of unpaid work for women. The document has been validated by a Working Group composed of stakeholders from the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.
- **Program to strengthen business incubators and accelerators in the countries of the SICA region:** In partnership with the Fundación da Vinci, the program aimed to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the countries of the SICA region. This included the evaluation and selection of entrepreneurial projects from existing incubators and accelerators in the region with growth potential, as well as advisory services, mentoring, and the linkage of participating entrepreneurs with investors and financing networks. In 2020, an online training program was conducted for management teams of incubators and/or accelerators, with an average participation of 55 managers from 40 organizations within the regional ecosystem that lead incubation and/or acceleration programs. Capacity strengthening was also supported through financial and technical resources. In partnership with the Latin America and the Caribbean Network of Incubators and Accelerators (incubadorasLAT), a diagnostic assessment of incubation and/or acceleration programs in the SICA region was carried out, making it possible to identify common characteristics, distinctive features, strengths, demands, and operational and management challenges as opportunities for improvement for centers that support entrepreneurs. A total of 54 organizations providing early-stage business support services and 40 organizations leading incubation and/or acceleration programs were identified.

³¹ According to KPMG data (2022), 69% of Latin American companies report on ESG. Of these, 28% use the Integrated Reporting format.

³² The Global Compact is a call to businesses to incorporate 10 universal principles related to human rights, labor, the environment, and the fight against corruption into their strategies and operations, as well as to act in a way that advances social goals and the implementation of the SDGs. Available at: <https://www.un.org/es/cr%C3%B3nica-onu/el-pacto-mundial-de-la-onu-la-b%C3%BAqueda-de-soluciones-para-retos-globales>

³³ 1) Promote gender equality from the highest level of management. 2) Treat all people – women and men – fairly, respecting and supporting human rights and non-discrimination. 3) Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all workers. 4) Promote the education, training, and professional development of women. 5) Implement business practices that strengthen women's empowerment (supply chains, marketing, etc.). 6) Promote equality through community initiatives and lead by example (lobbying). 7) Evaluate and disseminate progress made in favor of gender equality and women's empowerment.



- **4th SICA EMPRENDE Meeting ‘Innovate, Connect, Scale’:** Continuing with the virtual format, it was held from April 27 to 29, 2022, with the aim of promoting an approach focused on expanding the space of opportunities for entrepreneurship in the SICA region. Within this framework, investment rounds were organized for triple-impact ventures from countries in the SICA region, with the purpose of fostering a new vision of entrepreneurial and innovation mindsets and culture and supporting investment-seeking for business development across the different stages of the business life cycle.
- **Regional Network of Entrepreneurs’ Associations of the SICA region³⁴:** It promotes interaction and collaboration among entrepreneurs in the SICA region. It implements virtual platforms and collaborative spaces, organizes events and regional meetings for the exchange of experiences and good practices, and promotes the participation of associations in the design of public policies related to entrepreneurship. CENPROMYPE supported the Regional Network of Entrepreneurs’ Associations in defining and developing its business model in order to consolidate the network’s overall value proposition.
- **Research on inclusive financial solutions for MIPYME:** A collaboration agreement was established between CENPROMYPE and the Catholic University of Uruguay ‘Dámaso Antonio Larrañaga,’ which, through technical cooperation with BID Lab, gave rise to the Xcala program³⁵, to carry out research on the supply and demand gap for capital in the MIPYME segment, as well as an analysis of existing financial instruments and solutions for MIPYMEs in the SICA region. Within this framework, the educational program called **Angel Investment 101** is being developed through a series of introductory workshops on angel investing. This program aims to promote early-stage investment and professionalize investors so they can make more and better investments.
- **Regional Strategy for Business Development with an Innovation Focus for MIPYMEs:** Within the framework of this strategy, the **Pilot Project for Innovation Development of Central American MIPYMEs** was implemented. The project sought to promote collaboration among the parties involved in its development by addressing gaps in competencies related to research and development of food innovations. Through an open call, 20 women entrepreneurs from the food sector located in Guatemala and Belize were initially selected to participate in hands-on training through virtual sessions held between May and June 2023. Subsequently, six women from this group were selected to take part in the Immersion process, based on the growth potential of their businesses, as well as the commitment and availability they demonstrated during the training.
- **Regional Observatory on Competitiveness and Productive and Sustainable Innovation of MIPYMEs:** It functions as a permanent and up-to-date information system responsible for producing, systematizing, and providing knowledge on relevant aspects affecting the competitiveness, productivity, and sustainable development of MIPYMEs, with the aim of proactively and strategically promoting their role in regional integration and economic and social development. As part of its output, the Observatory produces periodic reports and analyses that make it possible to assess the progress and impact of actions implemented in the field of entrepreneurship and MIPYMEs. Within this framework, collaboration with academic institutions and research organizations is promoted to strengthen the quality of the Observatory’s data and analyses.
- **Innova tu Mercado:** It is transforming Peru’s traditional wholesale markets through a comprehensive initiative aimed at strengthening business competitiveness—especially those led by women—by increasing the use of digital tools, thereby driving local economic growth and development. The methodology begins with in-person mentoring by young volunteers known as Digiamig@s, who provide technical assistance in the use of digital tools such as Zoom, WhatsApp, and Artificial

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

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



Intelligence. Subsequently, participants receive virtual technical advisory support during evening hours, led by specialists in digital and business topics. As a result of this approach, more than 2,400 traders—70% of whom are women over the age of 50—have increased their digital confidence by 70%, reaching a total of 40 markets across 7 regions of the country.

- **IMPULSOHN:** An initiative supported by the Secretariat of Economic Development of Honduras, aimed at strengthening the country's productive fabric by providing entrepreneurs with key tools and resources to consolidate and expand their businesses. Through the program, participants have received seed capital, access to new markets through participation in international fairs, and a series of specialized training covering key topics such as social media advertising, value proposition, customer service, business digitalization, work-life balance, creating an elevator pitch, and innovation workshops. In the second half of 2024, 745 women received training, and in the first quarter of 2025, 453 women-led enterprises were supported, demonstrating how the initiative continues to generate real and sustainable change.
- **Proyecto WE3A Project³⁶:** This initiative aims to strengthen women entrepreneurs within value chains in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was launched in May 2021 in six countries: Guyana, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Ecuador, focusing on integrating women into business ecosystems and addressing challenges such as limited access to financing and lack of training. High-quality, free training was provided through digital platforms and webinars. Among its lessons learned, the project notes that women face significant barriers that limit their participation in the business sphere: 1) Women-owned businesses are concentrated in low-margin sectors and informal activities. 2) Women face difficulties accessing credit and business networks, in addition to care responsibilities and risks of gender-based violence. 3) Despite improvements in legal frameworks, implementation remains weak, affecting access to financing and market opportunities. The project is structured into three components: i) *Aspire*: Mapping of the women-led SME ecosystem and awareness campaigns to challenge cultural norms. ii) *Activate*: Training in business skills through the DreamBuilder platform and webinars. iii) *Accelerate*: A six-month acceleration program for more mature businesses, including mentorship and expansion planning.

15. Contributions of the Stakeholder Consultation Process

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

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

³⁶ <https://we3a.org/es/sobre/>



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

A relevant contribution came from the consultation with specialists from **Zamorano University**, who emphasized the importance of adapting gender strategies to the sociocultural context of each territory. They pointed out that, in some areas of Central America where strongly patriarchal sociocultural patterns prevail, a direct approach to gender content may generate resistance and even reduce women's participation, as observed in previous experiences following workshops specifically focused on the topic. In response, they recommend conducting a diagnosis of each context that is sensitive to local dynamics and advancing with a progressive approach, integrating the strengthening of productive, technical, and organizational capacities as a way to promote the participation of women and vulnerable groups without creating socio-community tensions.

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

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

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

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

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

In summary, the consultation process shows that there is a strong institutional foundation for integrating the gender approach and intersectionality into the Project. However, its effectiveness will depend on context-sensitive strategies, the reduction of real participation barriers, and



continuous technical support that enables the translation of these approaches into concrete and sustainable practices in the rural territories of the region.

16. Conclusions

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

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

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

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

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



patriarchal social norms, limit the impact of existing legal frameworks and create a permanent risk context for women's autonomy and full participation.

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

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

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

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

C10. In light of the gender and intersectional vulnerabilities identified in this assessment, the Programme will require all funded Science–Community Partnerships to identify vulnerable beneficiary groups and define quantitative inclusion targets as part of project design and reporting. As a minimum requirement, all projects must demonstrate the direct participation of at least one of the following groups: women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant populations, or other rural groups vulnerable to climate change. All projects will also be required to report sex-, age-, and ethnicity-disaggregated data and document inclusion-related results annually.

C11. At the Programme level, these requirements will enable the aggregation, monitoring, and verification of inclusion and empowerment results across the AFCIA portfolio, beyond individual project narratives. Portfolio-level reporting will make it possible to track the proportion of projects benefiting vulnerable populations, the number of direct beneficiaries reached, and changes in participation, leadership, and access to innovation resources and opportunities among women and other vulnerable groups. This will strengthen accountability for equitable benefit distribution and



support the systematic monitoring of empowerment-related outcomes throughout programme implementation.

In summary ...

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

17. Glossary

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

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

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

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

Climate Change: Change directly or indirectly attributed to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and, in addition to natural climate variability, is observed over comparable time periods (MPAS³⁷, BID, 2020).

Care: In a broad sense, the concept of care refers to all the activities necessary to ensure the well-being and daily survival of individuals, involving material, economic, and emotional actions. It includes self-care, direct

³⁷ BID Environmental and Social Policy Framework, 2020.



care of others, the preconditions for care (such as household cleaning, food shopping and preparation), and the management of care.

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

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

Gender stereotypes: are generalized and simplified beliefs about the characteristics, roles, and behaviors considered appropriate for women and men. These stereotypes limit individual freedoms, perpetuate discrimination, and reinforce inequalities in areas such as education, work, politics, and access to resources. (CEDAW Recomendación General N° 28, 2010).

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

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

Gender Equality: It means that people of all genders enjoy the same conditions and opportunities to exercise their rights and reach their social, economic, political, and cultural potential. The Environmental and Social Policy Framework acknowledges that the pursuit of equality requires actions towards equity, which involves providing and distributing benefits or resources in a way that reduces existing gaps, recognizing that the existence of such gaps can harm people of all genders. In contrast, gender inequality limits the ability of affected individuals to participate in the opportunities offered by the project and benefit from them, as well as to resist, cope with, and recover from any adverse impacts the projects may generate (MPAS, IDB, 2020).

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

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



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

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

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

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

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1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

2. Applicable environmental and social policies and frameworks

Environmental Policy and Legislation Framework in LAC

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAF Social and Environmental Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

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

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

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

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

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

3. Programme-Level Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

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

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

Table 2. Environmental and Social Risks

AF Environmental and Social Principle	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks: additional assessment and management required to ensure compliance
1. <i>Compliance with the law</i>	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring, periodic compliance checks, and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use, and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process during the subproject selection phase. The AFCIA–CAF evaluation, selection, and technical support mechanisms ensure that projects comply with national regulatory requirements from design through implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licenses, permits, and relevant controls. In addition, the institutional capacity-building measures envisaged under the Programme contribute to the consistent and robust application of regulations across different national contexts.

		The Programme will conduct periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants will be required to demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks at the project design stage (Component 1). In cases of identified non-compliance with national regulations or any environmental and social safeguards during project execution, the PMU will work closely with the partnership to implement a graduated management process focused on corrective support and timely resolution, guided by three specific pathways: progression, adaptation, or discontinuation, as detailed in Section 10 of this ESMS.
2. Access and Equity	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.</i>	Moderate risk. Systemic inequities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making, and services for women may create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. While the Programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a particular focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that structural exclusion may persist (e.g., women-led organizations). The Programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation mechanisms and targeted outreach actions for women's groups. Mitigation measures: Apply inclusive selection criteria that give weight to partnerships led by women, youth, and representatives of Indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1). An explicit commitment to ensure that information and communication channels are available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with interpretation support provided where appropriate.
3. Marginalised and Vulnerable Groups	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.</i>	Moderate risk. Vulnerable groups—including young women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and subsistence rural households—face compounded disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. These vulnerabilities are recognized in the Gender Analysis in Annex IV, particularly in relation to informal economies, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and differentiated impacts of extreme climate events. While the Programme integrates safeguards and seeks to include diverse participants in innovation design and implementation, there remains a risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion without sustained, targeted support. Mitigation measures: Applicants must demonstrate inclusive engagement, include vulnerability-disaggregated indicators (primarily by gender, Indigenous status, and age, while remaining open to other characteristics), and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation panel identifying inclusion gaps and risks. Activities may include care services to reduce participation barriers and enable effective engagement (Components 1 and 2).
4. Human Rights	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme adopts a human right based and people-centred approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association, and equitable access to programme benefits for smallholders, rural communities, and other stakeholders. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. The programme will ensure respect for human rights through mandatory safeguards screening and monitoring through the ESMP. Projects (Component 1) will integrate, from the design stage, principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Component 2 will provide technical support in safeguards and gender to strengthen risk identification and management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
5. Gender equality and women's empowerment	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through the upfront</i>	Moderate risk. While the Programme integrates a gender approach, varying capacities among stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. This risk is mitigated through a

women	screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.	structured Gender Action Plan, targeted technical support and mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation but also benefits, leadership, and influence. Mitigation measures: Evaluate proposals using criteria that prioritize gender equity and women's leadership; require gender analysis and Gender Action Plans in all proposals; prioritize initiatives led by women researchers, extension agents, and producers (Component 1); provide technical assistance for gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment (Component 2); monitor gender-specific results; and highlight successful innovations benefiting rural women through gender-sensitive communication products (Component 3).
6. Fundamental labour rights	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and ILO core labour standards. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. Regular monitoring will verify compliance with national labour legislation and ILO fundamental labour standards across all projects. Proposal screening (Component 1) will ensure that labour requirements are integrated at the design stage and that employment conditions comply with applicable national regulations. Safeguards monitoring through the ESMP will oversee implementation. Component 2 will provide technical support to ensure proper integration and effective application of labour standards throughout project execution.
7. Indigenous Indigenous	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, mandatory Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols, and subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.	Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. The Programme recognizes the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where many Indigenous peoples maintain distinct identities, governance systems, territories, and cultural practices. Science–Community Partnerships innovation processes may involve Indigenous organizations, communities, or territories. Participation of Indigenous peoples is voluntary and will occur through inclusive co-design processes with explicit consent mechanisms. However, in diverse sociocultural contexts, there is a risk that Indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during project formulation. Mitigation measures: Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1); ensure cultural appropriateness of support and capacity-building processes through the technical team (Component 2).
8. Involuntary Resettlement	Complies. No additional assessment is required as compliance is guaranteed through mandatory exclusion at the screening stage	Complies through exclusion. Any subproject involving involuntary physical or economic displacement is classified as Category A and is strictly excluded from financing at the Stage 1 eligibility check; establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3).
9. Protection of natural habitats Natural	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Projects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure no adverse impacts on flora, fauna, or sensitive ecosystems. Mitigation measures: Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); incorporate specific measures in ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2).

10. <i>Conservation of biological diversity</i>	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Projects will align with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. ESIA/ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, such as avoiding installations affecting bird nesting areas, native vegetation, wetlands, or mangrove ecosystems. Mitigation measures: Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); require site-specific environmental assessments (ESIA/ESMP) for subprojects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
11. <i>Climate Change</i>	Complies. Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects.	The Programme focuses on climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts, and other hazards. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process during the subproject selection phase. Agroforestry or agricultural projects will be small-scale and subject to exclusion criteria preventing significant adverse impacts.
12. <i>Pollution prevention and resource efficiency</i>	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, mandatory subproject-level ESMPs, and continuous monitoring.</i>	Moderate risk. Construction-related activities may generate waste, noise, dust, or minor pollution if not properly managed. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient resource use. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy, and materials. Mitigation measures: Require simple waste management plans where applicable (Component 1); verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
13. <i>Public health</i>	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Potential impacts and risks will be formally assessed through subproject-level screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. The programme will prevent public health risks through safeguards screening and the integration of preventive measures into the ESMP. Projects will align with national regulations and good public health practices from Component 1; Component 2 will provide technical support to strengthen health risk management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
14. <i>Physical and cultural heritage</i>	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Programme and project activities are not expected to take place in areas containing physical or cultural heritage, nor will they restrict community access to such resources. Design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage, or removal of recognized cultural assets. ESS screening will identify nearby heritage sites; if present, a risk analysis will be conducted and mitigation measures defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders. Mitigation measures: Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and potential impacts (Component 1); exclude projects that could damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1 – exclusion list).
15. <i>Land and soil conservation</i>	Associated with risks requiring mitigation. <i>Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, land-use exclusion criteria, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs</i>	Moderate risk. The Programme promotes sustainable soil conservation approaches in land-related interventions. Although exclusion criteria apply to activities involving intensive land use, minor risks may arise from small-scale installations (e.g., building improvements, water tanks). Site-specific assessments

	<i>paired with continuous monitoring.</i>	and periodic ESS monitoring will be conducted, particularly for infrastructure and WASH activities, incorporating ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts. Mitigation measures: Promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during proposal co-development (Component 1); apply safeguard assessments and monitoring for projects with potential soil impacts (Component 3).
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4. Environmental and Social Risk Classification at Programme Level

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

Table 3. Programme Risk Categorisation by Component

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

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

5. Programme Environmental and Social Management Approach

The AFCIA–CAF programme's risk management approach is integrated into the mechanism's procedures and is designed to identify, evaluate, monitor and accompany innovative adaptation projects through a system that is proportional and appropriate to the type of intervention. This approach is complemented by the Consultation & Engagement (Section 11), which ensures that consultation and participation processes are systematically integrated throughout the project cycle, in accordance with the level of risk, scale, and context of each subproject.

Given that projects under the USP modality are not identified at the time of programme approval, certain Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) principle-level risks cannot be fully confirmed *ex ante*. Such risks will be identified and assessed through the subproject-level screening and risk categorisation process, in accordance with the programme's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

Principle of Proportionality in Screening and Safeguards Preparation

The programme will apply the principle of proportionality in screening and documentation requirements at the application stage, ensuring that the information requested is sufficient for the PMU and the evaluation panel to approve proposals, without compromising compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). This principle also applies to stakeholder consultation and engagement processes, which will be designed and implemented proportionally to the risks and potential impacts identified, as further detailed in Section 11.

Proposals must comply with the Stage 1 eligibility requirements (Table 4, Stage 1 [Eligibility & Adaptation Screening criteria, Section E of the FP](#)), which include adaptation relevance and alignment criteria. A minimum environmental and social safeguards screening will be conducted at the application stage. Based on its results, the PMU will determine the required safeguards instruments and provide technical support for the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Gender Action Plans (GAPs), and other instruments required prior to approval and disbursement.

Results frameworks and monitoring arrangements will be progressively strengthened to ensure rigor without creating undue barriers to participation.

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

The assessment and categorisation process will be carried out using standardised tools and guidelines, applying a preliminary analysis tool (Appendix I) that will then allow the PMU to assign a risk classification (Category B or C) to each project. The programme will not finance Category A (high risk) projects. Although the location and specific characteristics of the projects will be defined during each call for proposals, proposals are expected to fall within the scope of low- or moderate-risk interventions typical of science-community partnerships in productive territories.

In parallel, stakeholder consultation processes will be initiated early in the project cycle and maintained throughout implementation, monitoring, and closure, ensuring meaningful participation aligned with the Consultation & Engagement (Section 11).

All projects must complete the required environmental and social assessment prior to final approval. Safeguards documentation must be approved by the PMU before the grant agreement is signed. Where only minor safeguards gaps remain, conditional approval may be granted, subject to the completion of clearly defined corrective actions prior to the first disbursement.

While the Independent External Evaluation Panel may provide technical observations on the safeguards documentation submitted with the proposal, the PMU retains sole decision-making authority for E&S risk categorization and final safeguards approval.

No funds will be disbursed until all required safeguards instruments have been fully approved, all outstanding corrective actions and conditions have been completed, and all required national permits and licenses have been obtained and remain valid. Specifically, this mandatory minimum documentation includes the completed standardized environmental and social screening filter and, where applicable, the site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the delay or

suspension of disbursements until all conditions are fully satisfied.

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

- **Initial Assessment and Risk Categorisation**

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

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

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

The categorisation will determine the level of analysis required:

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

The scope and depth of stakeholder consultation and engagement will also be defined at this stage, in line with the assigned risk category and in accordance with Section 11.

Integration of Safeguards and Support in Design (Required Safeguards Documentation)

During the proposal design phase, the PMU's Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist, in line with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, will provide support to the proposing science–community partnership teams to:

- Identify environmental, social, and gender risks and opportunities;
- Determine the project categorization in accordance with Adaptation Fund standards;
- Formulate mitigation and management measures proportional to the level of risk;
- Fully integrate the Adaptation Fund safeguard policies into the technical design;
- Develop the required environmental and social management instruments.

All projects shall include an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) proportional to the level of risk identified. For low-risk projects (Category C), the ESMP may adopt a simplified format. For moderate-risk projects (Category B), the ESMP shall be more detailed and based on the results of the risk analysis.

Safeguards documentation may include, as applicable:

- Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs);
- Gender Action Plans (GAPs);
- Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Plans, where required based on risk level;
- Evidence of compliance with applicable environmental and public health regulations;
- Environmental permits and licenses required under national legislation.

At the safeguards-documentation stage, the partnership must identify all required permits and licenses and submit a plan and timeline for obtaining any that remain outstanding. All required national permits and licenses must be obtained and valid prior to the first disbursement and must remain valid throughout project implementation, as applicable. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the delay, suspension, or cancellation of disbursements, in accordance with the programme's safeguards procedures. Consequently, cases of ongoing non-compliance will be managed through three specific operational pathways—progression, adaptation, or discontinuation—explicitly including the authority of the PMU to suspend disbursement tranches and execute the immediate administrative and operational suspension of the subproject's Procurement Plan under the IICA grant agreement framework until full compliance is verified.

Each ESMP shall include, at a minimum:

- Mitigation and management measures;
- Clearly defined institutional responsibilities;
- Summary of stakeholder consultation activities carried out and planned, including key findings and how feedback has been addressed;
- Monitoring and follow-up indicators;
- Reporting mechanisms.
 - **Capacity Building**

The programme includes technical assistance and specific training on Adaptation Fund safeguards, risk management, social inclusion and gender, as well as on the use of risk screening and planning tools. This includes capacity building on stakeholder consultation and engagement practices, ensuring that implementing partners are equipped to conduct inclusive, transparent, and context-appropriate processes in line with Section 11.

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

- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning**

The PMU will conduct environmental and social monitoring as part of the programme's MEL, ensuring alignment with AF requirements. In the Monitoring and Evaluation subsection of Section 9 of this document, the details of the monitoring stages and their respective responsibilities are presented.

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

Monitoring will include:

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

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

- **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**

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

The PMU will be responsible for:

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

6. Risk categorisation

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

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

The Adaptation Fund's classification system is summarised below:

Table 4. Risk Categories

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

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

Based on the results:

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

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

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

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

7. Project analysis process

Risk Assessment and Management Process for CAF/FONTAGRO AFCIA Projects

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

➤ Initial Evaluation and Exclusion List

Upon receipt of the projects, the PMU will verify:

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

Risk Classification

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

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

Eligibility

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

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

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

Project Requirements

Projects must submit:

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

Integration into Project Agreements and Programme Reports

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

- Compliance with the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social safeguards and the ESMS of this programme is mandatory; these conditions and the approved ESMP form an integral part of the signed agreement between the subprojects and IICA. In the event of non-compliance with these contractual conditions, a temporary administrative and operational suspension will be applied to allow for rectification or adjustment; if the non-compliance persists and remains unresolved, it will proceed to the permanent discontinuation of the subproject due to breach of agreement.
- Access to and compliance with complaint mechanisms at both the community and AFCIA–CAF programme levels.
- Roles, responsibilities, and timelines for environmental and social monitoring and reporting.
- Participation in learning and continuous improvement reviews conducted by the PMU.

- The environmental and social performance of each project will be documented annually in the Project

To ensure strict compliance, safeguards documentation must be approved by the PMU before the grant agreement is signed. Where only minor safeguards gaps remain, conditional approval may be granted, provided that the outstanding corrective actions are clearly documented as conditions precedent to first disbursement. No first disbursement will be released until the ESMP, GAP and any other required safeguards instruments have been fully approved; all outstanding corrective actions and conditions have been completed; all required national permits and licenses have been obtained and remain valid; and the PMU Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist has completed and signed the pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist..

Table 5. E&S Assessment and Approval Workflow at Subproject Level

Step	Action	Responsible Actor	Required Output / Condition
1. Submission	Applicant submits full proposal package through FONTAGRO platform	Science–Community Partnership (applicant)	Completed application form; initial E&S risk screening (Annex II, Appendix I); Gender Analysis; alignment with national priorities; TRL statement
2. Eligibility & Adaptation Screening (Stage 1)	PMU verifies compliance with all pass/fail criteria	PMU (Environmental & Social Specialist; Programme Coordinator)	Stage 1 criteria matrix (Annex V); Exclusion List (Annex II); E&S risk category check
3. E&S Risk Categorization	PMU assigns preliminary risk category (B or C) to each eligible proposal	PMU (Environmental & Social Specialist)	E&S screening tool (Annex II, Appendix I); AF ESP 15 Principles
4. Technical Evaluation (Stage 2)	Independent External Evaluation Panel reviews, scores, ranks, and recommends proposals against the approved evaluation criteria	Independent External Evaluation Panel (min. 2 evaluators per proposal); IICA technical expert	Stage 2 scoring matrix (Annex V); minimum score 80/100; minimum Adaptation Value sub-score 40/50
5. Safeguards Documentation (pre-approval)	PMU supports selected partnerships in preparing required safeguards instruments	PMU (E&S Specialist; Gender Specialist); Science–Community Partnerships	ESMP (simplified for Cat. C; detailed for Cat. B); Gender Action Plan (GAP); Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Plan where applicable; identification of all national permits and licenses together with a plan and timeline for obtaining ¹ any that remain outstanding.
6. Grant Agreement	Following the final financing decision jointly adopted by the AFCIA Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO, IICA signs the applicable grant/co-execution agreement with each approved Science–Community Partnership	AFCIA Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO for final financing decision; IICA for agreement signature; Science–Community Partnership	Consolidated evaluation report; final financing decision; safeguards documentation approved by the PMU; any minor outstanding corrective actions documented as conditions precedent to first disbursement; agreed workplan and budget; baseline indicators; and reporting schedule
7. First Disbursement	IICA executes first disbursement / procurement action in accordance with fiduciary procedures	IICA (EE); PMU	Documented final financing decision; signed agreement or approved procurement/execution arrangement; fully approved ESMP and GAP and any other required safeguards instruments; completion of all outstanding corrective actions and conditions; valid required national permits and licenses; initial baseline data collected; and pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist completed and signed by the PMU Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist.
8. Implementation & Technical Support	Science–Community Partnerships implement approved workplan; PMU provides continuous technical assistance	Science–Community Partnerships; PMU (all specialists)	ESMP and GAP implementation; iterative test–learn–develop cycle; indicator tracking

¹ Where a subproject requires national regulatory permits or licenses (e.g., environmental, water-use, phytosanitary), the relevant national/sectoral authority is solely responsible for issuing or confirming such permits. This regulatory confirmation is independent from, and does not form part of, the technical scoring conducted by the Evaluation Panel or the eligibility/E&S screening conducted by the PMU.

9. Monitoring, Reporting & Safeguards Oversight	PMU conducts continuous E&S monitoring; reviews progress reports; conducts spot checks; CAF validates reports	PMU; CAF (IE); Science–Community Partnerships	Standardized progress reports (ESMP/GAP implementation; gender-disaggregated indicators; GRM records); local relevance and social feedback; FONTAGRO digital monitoring platform
10. Subsequent Disbursements	Disbursements conditional on satisfactory progress and compliance	IICA (EE); PMU; CAF (IE)	Satisfactory progress report; continued ESMP/GAP compliance; no outstanding unresolved safeguards issues
11. Mid-term & Final Evaluation	Independent external evaluation of program and project results	Independent evaluators (contracted by CAF); PMU	Full program data; project evidence logs; beneficiary data; cost-effectiveness metrics

This workflow applies to all subprojects financed under the programme. It should be read in conjunction with Section A (Table 4) of the Funding Proposal, which provides the full operational workflow including non-E&S steps. The roles of each actor are further described in Table 7 of this ESMS (Section 9, Roles and Responsibilities).

8. Programme-Level Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan

This table summarises the anticipated environmental and social risks aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (AF ESP), indicates their level of importance and describes the mitigation actions required at the programme level. Science-Community Partnership projects must develop a similar ESMP appropriate to their activities, aligned with the AFCIA–CAF programme ESMP and risk screening (Appendix I).

Given the programmatic nature of the intervention and the open call for USPs, risks at the project level cannot be fully determined at this stage and will be assessed through the ESMS screening and categorisation process prior to implementation.

The ESMP for each project will detail the specific risks of its activities and each site, the corresponding mitigation measures, those responsible, the ESS monitoring indicators, and the budget allocations. All ESMPs must be submitted before the start of project implementation and will be reflected in FONTAGRO's annual reports to CAF and the FA, ensuring that risk mitigation is monitored throughout the project cycle.

Table 6. Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan at the Programme Level

AF ES Principles	Identified Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
ESP1: Compliance with the Law	The programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. The AFCIA–CAF's evaluation, selection and technical support mechanisms ensure that projects comply with national regulatory requirements from design to implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licences, permits and relevant controls. Likewise, the institutional capacity building provided for in the programme contributes to the robust and consistent application of regulations in different national contexts.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through project screening	The programme will carry out periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants must demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks in the project design (Component 1).
ESP2: Access and Equity	Systemic inequalities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making, and services for women can create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. Although the Programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a special focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that forms of structural exclusion will continue (e.g., women-led organisations).	Moderate	Detailed measures available in the GAP The programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation and outreach actions targeting women, young people and indigenous populations. Apply inclusive selection criteria that weigh the participation of partnerships between community and institutional actors in projects focused on women, young people, and indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require a gender analysis and plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1).

AF ES Principles	Identified Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
ESP3: Marginalised and Vulnerable Groups	Vulnerable groups—including young women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and rural subsistence households—face cumulative disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. The Gender Analysis in Annex IV. Gender Action Plan recognises these vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to informal economies, disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and the differentiated impacts of extreme weather events. Although the Programme integrates safeguards and attempts to include diverse participants in the design and implementation of innovation projects, the risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion persists if active accompaniment and specific support are not ensured on a sustained basis.	Moderate	Detailed measures available in the PAG Applicants must demonstrate inclusive involvement, include indicators disaggregated by vulnerability (mainly by gender, indigenous status and age, but also open to other characteristics) and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation panel, identifying gender gaps and risks to inclusion. Activities include care services to reduce barriers and contribute to effective participation (Component 1 and Component 2).
ESP4: Human Rights Rights	The design adopts a human rights-based and people-centred approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association and equitable access to programme benefits for small producers, rural communities and other groups involved	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through project screening	The programme will ensure respect for human rights through mandatory safeguards screening and monitoring through the ESMP. Projects (Component 1) will integrate, from the design stage, principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Component 2 will provide technical support in safeguards and gender to strengthen risk identification and management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
ESP5: Gender equality and empowerment of women	Although the programme incorporates a gender perspective, the varying capacities of the different stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. The risk is mitigated by a structured Action Plan, technical support and specific mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation, but also benefits, leadership and influence.	Moderate	Detailed measures available in the GAP Evaluate proposals according to criteria that prioritise gender equality, leadership and female participation. Require gender analysis and action plans in all proposals, as well as prioritising initiatives led by women researchers, extension workers and producers, and forums for women, young people and indigenous populations (Component 1). Provide technical assistance in mainstreaming gender and seek to empower women economically (Component 2), monitor gender-specific results, highlight success stories of innovations that impact rural women, and disseminate gender-sensitive communication materials (Component 3).
ESP6: Fundamental labour rights	The programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and fundamental ILO standards.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through	Regular monitoring will verify compliance with national labour legislation and ILO fundamental labour standards across all projects. Proposal screening (Component 1) will ensure that labour requirements are integrated at the design stage and that employment conditions comply

AF ES Principles	Identified Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
		project screening	with applicable national regulations. Safeguards monitoring through the ESMP will oversee implementation. Component 2 will provide technical support to ensure proper integration and effective application of labour standards throughout project execution.
ESP7: Indigenous	The programme recognises the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where numerous indigenous peoples have their own identities, organisational systems, territories and cultural practices. Innovation processes led by Science–Community Alliances could involve indigenous organisations, communities or territories. Participation by indigenous peoples is voluntary. Indigenous communities that participate will do so through inclusive co-design processes and with explicit consent mechanisms. However, there is a possibility that, in diverse sociocultural contexts, indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during the formulation of innovation projects.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through subproject screening	Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1), the technical team will ensure the cultural appropriateness of the support and training processes (Component 2).
ESP8: Resettlement Involuntary	No risk of involuntary physical or economic displacement of people, communities or agricultural producers is anticipated. Resettlement would result in a project risk classification of A and would therefore be excluded. Exclusion criterion at the evaluation stage (Component 1), Establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3)	X	-
ESP9: Protection of natural habitats Natural	No biodiversity loss or introduction of invasive species is anticipated. Projects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure that they do not affect sensitive flora, fauna or ecosystems.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through subproject screening	Avoid the introduction of non-native species (Component 1), Incorporate specific measures in the ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2)

AF ES Principles	Identified Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
ESP10: Conservation of biological diversity	No biodiversity losses or introduction of invasive species are anticipated. Projects will be aligned with National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans. ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, for example: avoiding facilities that affect bird nesting areas, native flora, wetlands, or mangrove areas.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through subproject screening	Avoid the introduction of non-native species (Component 1), Require specific environmental assessments (ESMPs) for projects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
ESP11: Climate Change	The programme focuses on climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts and other risks. No significant increase in GHG emissions or impacts that reduce carbon capture capacity are expected. Agroforestry or agricultural projects will be small-scale and meet exclusion criteria that prevent significant negative effects.	X	-
ESP12: Pollution prevention and resource efficiency	Project construction activities can generate waste, noise, dust or minor pollution if not managed properly. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient use of resources. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy and materials.	Moderate	Require that, where applicable, proposals include simple waste management plans (Component 1). Verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
ESP13: Public health	The programme does not foresee significant impacts on public health. Projects may generate minimal, localised and reversible effects, complying with national public health standards. Similarly, environmental screening will incorporate a rapid health impact checklist (aligned with WHO) to identify whether additional assessments or plans are required.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through subproject screening	The programme will prevent public health risks through safeguards screening and the integration of preventive measures into the ESMP. Projects will align with national regulations and good public health practices from Component 1. Component 2 will provide technical support to strengthen health risk management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.

AF ES Principles	Identified Risks	Level	Mitigation Measures
ESP14: Physical and cultural heritage	Programme and project activities will not be carried out in areas with physical or cultural heritage, nor will they affect community access to such resources. The design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage or removal of cultural assets recognised at local, national or international level. The ESS screening will identify the presence of nearby heritage; if any exists, a risk analysis will be carried out and mitigation measures will be defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders.	Risk unknown at this stage; will be determined through subproject screening	Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and possible impacts (Component 1), Exclude projects that may damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1) exclusion list.
ESP15: Land and soil conservation	The programme promotes sustainable approaches to soil conservation in projects involving land interventions. Although there are exclusion criteria for activities involving intensive soil use, there may be minor risks associated with smaller installations such as building improvements and water tank installation. Therefore, specific site assessments and periodic monitoring of ESS compliance will be carried out, especially for infrastructure and WASH, considering ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts.	Moderate	Promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during the co-development of proposals (Component 1), apply assessments and monitoring of safeguards in projects at risk of affecting soils (Component 3).

9. Implementation Arrangements

Roles and Responsibilities

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

Table 7. Roles and responsibilities for ESMS implementation.

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

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

The roles described in Table 7 above are exercised across the sequential steps of the subproject workflow described in Section 7 (Table 5) of this ESMS and in Section A (Table 4) of the Funding Proposal. To summarise the division of responsibilities at key decision points: (i) the PMU holds sole authority for the initial E&S screening

and risk categorisation decisions; (ii) the Evaluation Panel reviews safeguards documentation as part of the technical evaluation but does not have decision-making authority over E&S categorisation; (iii) IICA, as Executing Entity, is responsible for incorporating safeguards obligations into grant agreements and for authorising disbursements in line with PMU-approved safeguards documentation; and (iv) CAF, as Implementing Entity, exercises overall fiduciary and E&S oversight, validates milestone-based reporting, and maintains accountability to the Adaptation Fund.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The programme will apply a continuous and structured process for monitoring, reporting, and managing environmental and social risks throughout implementation, in full alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). The system will be proportionate to the scale and risk profile of the projects and based on clearly defined roles and accountability arrangements.

At project entry, all proposals will undergo environmental and social risk screening and negative list verification. Once identified by the PMU as eligible beneficiaries, projects will complete the environmental and social assessment process and prepare the required safeguards instruments, including Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Gender Action Plans (GAPs), or other instruments as applicable. Risk categorization and safeguard measures will be revisited periodically, particularly where project activities evolve or contextual conditions change. The PMU is responsible for reviewing and approving these instruments prior to first disbursement. No funds will be disbursed until all required safeguards instruments have been fully approved, all outstanding corrective actions and conditions have been completed, and all required national permits and licenses have been obtained and remain valid. Where minor safeguards gaps are identified at approval stage, subprojects may receive conditional approval subject to completion of clearly defined actions prior to first disbursement. Completion of these actions will be verified by the PMU through the pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist referenced in Section Q of the Funding Proposal. Failure to complete outstanding actions within the agreed timeframe will trigger Tier 1 of the escalation process described below.

During implementation, Science–Community Partnerships are responsible for implementing approved safeguards measures and monitoring environmental, social, and gender indicators at project level. They submit periodic standardized progress reports covering ESMP and GAP implementation, grievance management, consultation activities, mitigation measures, and any emerging risks. Grievance records and resolution status form part of the safeguards monitoring system and are reviewed as part of periodic compliance assessments.

The PMU holds overall responsibility for continuous safeguards oversight. Through the programme's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system, environmental and social indicators are integrated into the performance monitoring framework, including gender-disaggregated data and indicators defined under the GAP. Compliance is supervised through review of progress reports, documentary verification, project-level risk reviews, spot checks, community consultations, and targeted site visits as required.

An Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist within the PMU leads day-to-day compliance monitoring, with technical supervision from CAF's environmental and social specialists. Safeguards performance is subject to continuous monitoring, beyond formal reporting milestones, ensuring timely detection and management of emerging risks.

If environmental or social risks are identified or increase during implementation, a graduated escalation mechanism is applied. The PMU works with the beneficiary to agree on corrective actions and timelines, supported by technical experts where necessary. In cases of significant or persistent non-compliance, the PMU may require updates to safeguards instruments, impose additional mitigation measures, temporarily suspend disbursements, or escalate serious incidents in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's ESP procedures.

To support Science–Community Partnership beneficiaries in maintaining compliance, the programme provides technical assistance, including guidance on ESP and GP requirements, standardized safeguards templates and tools, outreach and capacity-building activities (Activity 2.1.1), training workshops (Activity 2.1.2), and access to specialized technical support. This approach combines hands-on assistance with the rigor and accountability required under Adaptation Fund policies.

Environmental and social performance is reported to the Adaptation Fund through the Annual Project Implementation Reports. These include a dedicated section on ESMP and GAP implementation, measures taken to prevent, minimize, or mitigate risks, analysis of risk levels and management progress, any changes in project risk profiles, and corrective actions where applicable. Mid-term and final evaluations assess overall project performance regarding environmental and social risks and the functioning of the Grievance Mechanism.

10. Implementation monitoring, reporting, and escalation

Environmental and social monitoring during subproject implementation is conducted through three complementary layers: PMU oversight, Science–Community Partnership self-reporting, and the programme-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). Roles and responsibilities are set out in Table 7 (Section 9); the sequential monitoring workflow is described in Table 5 (Section 7) and Table 4 of the Funding Proposal (Section E). This section consolidates the operational details of reporting frequency, content, and escalation.

Reporting frequency and content:

Science–Community Partnerships submit standardized progress reports. Each report covers: (i) ESMP implementation status by mitigation measure; (ii) GAP progress with gender-disaggregated beneficiary data; (iii) environmental or social incidents identified and responses taken; (iv) GRM log — complaints received, status, and resolution; and (v) updated regulatory compliance and permit status. The PMU prepares an annual consolidated E&S performance report integrating subproject-level data, submitted to CAF and the Adaptation Fund as part of the Project Implementation Report.

Roles in supervision and compliance: Science–Community Partnerships are the primary responsible actors for day-to-day ESMP and GAP implementation and for self-reporting through progress reports. The PMU Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist reviews all monitoring reports, conducts random documentary checks, and carries out field visits or community consultations where risks are elevated or reports are inconsistent. CAF, as Implementing Entity, validates annual E&S performance reports and holds ultimate accountability to the Adaptation Fund. Where the PMU identifies gaps in a partnership's reporting, it provides targeted technical assistance before initiating any formal corrective process.

Escalation process: The implementation of the observations and corrective actions notified by the PMU is part of the commitments detailed in the subproject execution agreement. Compliance ensures the proper development of the subproject and maintains the regularity of disbursement flows, in accordance with the management and escalation procedures established in the following tiers. Risks and non-compliance identified during implementation are escalated through a graduated three-tier process:

— Tier 1 (minor non-compliance or gaps): The PMU issues a written observation and agrees on a corrective action and a defined deadline with the partnership. During implementation, a Tier 1 issue does not normally affect an otherwise eligible disbursement unless the issue constitutes an outstanding condition precedent to that disbursement. Before first disbursement, any unresolved corrective action or condition identified through conditional safeguards approval will delay disbursement until compliance has been verified and documented by the PMU.— Tier 2 (significant non-compliance or unresolved Tier 1 issue): the PMU formally notifies IICA and CAF. A defined timeframe for the rectification or adaptation of activities will be granted through a mandatory corrective action plan. If the non-compliance persists during this period and remains unresolved under this plan, IICA will execute a temporary suspension of subproject activities and disbursement tranches first, and if the situation remains uncorrected, it will proceed to the permanent discontinuation of the subproject due to breach of agreement.

— Tier 3 (critical non-compliance, irreversible harm, or repeated breach): CAF may initiate grant agreement termination procedures, with notification to the Adaptation Fund.

The GRM operates as a parallel channel: complaints raised by community members or stakeholders are registered by the PMU, triaged within five working days, and resolved within thirty working days where possible. GRM cases that reveal an unidentified E&S risk are treated as Tier 1 events and processed accordingly. The GRM log is reported to CAF and annually to the Adaptation Fund.

11. Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

This section aims to ensure that all subprojects under the AFCIA programme are designed and implemented in a transparent, inclusive, and participatory manner, in line with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy.

Stakeholder engagement forms an integral part of the design and implementation of Science–Community Partnership subprojects, in alignment with the provisions set out in the section “Integration of Safeguards and Support in Design (Required Safeguards Documentation)” of this ESMS. As indicated in that section, safeguard instruments — including stakeholder engagement mechanisms — are defined in proportion to the environmental and social risk category assigned during the assessment process.

On this basis, subprojects supported by the programme will integrate structured and context-appropriate stakeholder engagement processes throughout their lifecycle — from early design stages through implementation, monitoring, and closure — in a manner proportional to their scale, context, and level of risk.

For Category B subprojects (moderate risk), stakeholder engagement will be addressed through more structured safeguard instruments, such as a Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Plan (SEP), as part of the safeguard documentation. These instruments will support the identification of relevant stakeholders, define engagement approaches, promote the inclusion of vulnerable or underrepresented groups, and facilitate ongoing consultation and feedback mechanisms.

For Category C subprojects (low risk), stakeholder engagement will be integrated through simpler and more flexible mechanisms, proportional to the nature and magnitude of risks and impacts, without necessarily requiring a standalone SEP.

As a minimum requirement: Category B subprojects must conduct and document at least one structured consultation event with directly affected communities and vulnerable groups prior to Stage 2 submission, and a second consultation event prior to first disbursement to validate the final ESMP/SEP; Category C subprojects must conduct and document at least one consultation event with directly affected stakeholders prior to first disbursement. The PMU will verify compliance with these minimum requirements as part of the Stage 1 and pre-disbursement safeguards checklist (see Section Q of the Funding Proposal).

Beyond the governance stages described above, consultation activities are also organised around the following thematic phases, aligned with Activity 1.2.2., including:

- Identification and prioritisation of adaptation needs
- Design and validation of solutions
- Implementation and adaptive adjustments
- Monitoring of results and collection of beneficiary feedback

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will ensure that stakeholder engagement approaches are integrated into the ESMS, consistently applied across subprojects, and monitored during implementation, including the incorporation of stakeholder feedback into decision-making.
- Science–community partnerships will be responsible for implementing consultation activities, preparing Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Plans (SEPs) where applicable, and maintaining documentation.
- The PMU will oversee the application of these approaches and provide guidance and support as needed.

Information on consultation processes — including records, key inputs, and how they have been considered in design or implementation — will be documented in a manner proportional to the subproject’s level of risk.

Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

All subprojects will identify and analyse relevant stakeholders, including:

- Communities affected by the subproject
- Vulnerable or underrepresented groups (including women, youth, the elderly, and marginalised populations)
- Indigenous Peoples, where applicable
- Local authorities and relevant institutions
- Civil society organisations and other stakeholders

Stakeholder mapping will be documented and updated as necessary throughout the subproject lifecycle.

Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Stakeholder engagement is integrated at four key points aligned with the subproject workflow in Table 5 (Section 7): (a) Stage 1 – screening and risk categorisation (Table 5, Steps 2–3); (b) Stage 2 – subproject design and preparation (Table 5, Step 5); (c) prior to final approval (Table 5, Step 6); and (d) during implementation and monitoring (Table 5, Steps 8–9).

These consultations will be conducted in a manner that is:

- Free of coercion and culturally appropriate
- Inclusive and gender-responsive
- Accessible, facilitating the participation of vulnerable or underrepresented groups
- Timely and based on relevant and understandable information

Documentation and Disclosure

Subprojects will:

- Maintain records of consultations carried out, including:
 - Dates and locations
 - Participants (gender-disaggregated where possible)
 - Key issues raised and responses provided
- Reflect, where applicable, how stakeholder inputs have been considered in design and implementation
- Ensure that relevant subproject information is disclosed in an accessible and timely manner. Disclosure will be provided in Spanish, Portuguese or English (depending on the country), and in relevant local/Indigenous languages where required, through channels appropriate to the local context (e.g., community meetings, printed materials, FONTAGRO's digital platform, or local radio in areas with limited connectivity), at least 10 working days prior to each consultation event. Science–Community Partnerships will provide a written or oral summary response to stakeholder input within 15 working days of each consultation, to be included in the subproject's progress reports (Section 10).

Indigenous Peoples and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Where subprojects may affect Indigenous Peoples, engagement processes will be conducted in a culturally appropriate manner and in accordance with the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as established in this ESMS.

Evidence of consultations and, where applicable, consent will be duly documented.

The determination of whether a subproject may affect Indigenous Peoples is made by the PMU as part of the Stage 1 E&S screening (Table 5, Step 2–3), based on the applicant's self-assessment and, where necessary, verification with national indigenous affairs authorities. Where FPIC is required and is not obtained, or is withdrawn at any stage, the subproject will not proceed to approval (Table 5, Step 6) or will have its implementation suspended if already underway, in accordance with the escalation procedures set out in Section 10.

Linkage with the Grievance Redress Mechanism

Stakeholder engagement processes will be closely linked to the programme's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), as described in the following section 12 of this ESMS, ensuring that stakeholders are informed about how to raise concerns and that feedback received is used to improve subproject implementation.

12. Grievance Redress Mechanism

This grievance redress mechanism will be applied to all project activities without exception and will be disseminated through all communication and stakeholder engagement channels, with a particular emphasis on reaching women and vulnerable groups. Additionally, during the preparatory and dissemination activities of the project, the mechanism will be socialised and made accessible to all beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries, ensuring they understand its purpose and how to use it effectively.

The Grievance Mechanism forms an integral part of the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement (Section 11), ensuring that stakeholders have continuous access to channels for raising concerns and receiving timely responses throughout the project cycle.

Public communication

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who can file a complaint?

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

Administrative bodies for processing complaints or claims

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

- a) The Ombudsman (OP) will report to the Chief Executive.

- b) The Complaints Processing Committee.

This Committee is composed of:

- Representative of the CAF Country Office;
- Vice-Presidency of Administration - (Talent Management Directorate or personnel and payroll services unit);
- Legal Adviser;
- Development Cooperation Funds Directorate;
- Risk Management Department
 - a) Conflict Resolution Facilitator: external consultant specialising in conflict resolution appointed by the Complaints and Claims Committee.
 - b) Expert in verifying compliance with environmental and social policy - Safeguards: an external consultant who is an expert in safeguards appointed by the Complaints and Claims Management Committee.
 - c) Technical Focal Point and Financial Focal Point CAF - FA
 - d) FA Project Implementer

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

Roles and Responsibilities

Ombudsman

- Has overall responsibility for the operation of the CAF-FA Project Complaints and Claims Management System.
- Records the complaint or claim.
- Ensures compliance with deadlines or approval of extensions for the complaints and claims system.
- Activates the Complaints Management Committee.
- Contacts the Project Executor
- Contacts the CAF Adaptation Fund Focal Points (Technical Focal Point and Financial Focal Point).
- Receive from the Complaints Processing Committee the eligibility of the complaint to proceed to the Dispute Resolution Phase.
- Coordinate and deliver information and responses to all relevant parties at each stage and process of the CAF-FA Project Complaints and Claims System.

Conflict Resolution Facilitator:

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

Expert in verifying compliance with environmental and social policy:

- Review the Project Performance Report (PPR) with regard to Risk Assessment and Environmental and Social Indicators.
- Review the Environmental and Social Management Plan approved by the Adaptation Fund and its compliance.
- Conduct a compliance review.

- If any non-compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy is detected by the CAF-FA Project, make recommendations for corrective measures.
- Prepares the Compliance Verification Report related to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy for the Conflict Resolution Facilitator.

The Claims Management Committee:

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

CAF-FA Technical Focal Point:

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

CAF-FA Financial Focal Point:

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

AF Project Implementer:

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

Phases of the claim's mechanism

Phase 1. Receipt of a complaint or claim

At any time during the start-up and execution of the project. Depending on the project and until the final verification of its correct functioning.	Step 1. Receipt of the Complaint or Claim Individuals or groups who believe they have been or may be affected by the adverse environmental and social impacts of a project in which CAF acts as an FA agency should consider filing a complaint or claim: - The Complaint or Claim may refer to any stage of the project, whether in its design or implementation. - The complaint or claim may be received by email, physical letter delivered to one of CAF's Representative Offices, or under the system established during the formulation of the Full Proposal. - In remote areas where access to telecommunications or electronic media is restricted, CAF, in coordination with the Project Executor during the formulation of the Full Proposal, may receive the complaint or claim by email, physical letter, or through any of CAF's Representative Offices. - The Project during the formulation of the Complete Proposal and effective alternative mechanisms will be adopted so that the persons involved can submit their Complaints and Claims. Such effective alternative mechanisms shall consider adequate translation and written record in case the native language of the affected group is different from Spanish, Portuguese or English.
Within 20 working days of receipt of the complaint or claim (maximum of 35 working days in justified special cases)	Step 2. Registration and acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint or claim - The PO acknowledges receipt of the Complaint or Claim to the complainants. - The PO verifies the information provided by the claimants and the request (resolution of the problem or review of compliance). - The PO registers the claim on the CAF-FA Projects web portal. - The PO may defer the complaint or claim until sufficient information and documentation are submitted. - The PO guarantees the confidentiality of the complainants' identity upon request. - The PO activates the Complaints Handling Committee.
3 working days after the publication of the complaint or claim on the CAF-FA web portal.	Step 3. Transmission of the complaint or claim The PO activates the Complaints Handling Committee by forwarding the complaint or claim to: - Complaints and Claims Processing Committee - other appropriate CAF departments or area offices (if the nature of the complaint or claim falls within the scope of application).
(3) working days after the new submission of the complaint or claim	Step 4. Updating the complainant - The PO informs complainants about the process CAF will follow with the complaint or claim and their contact information.

Phase 2. Conflict resolution

Within 10 working days after receipt of the complaint or claim (maximum of 20 working days in justified special cases)	Step 1 Determine admissibility The OP submits the information to the Complaints Handling Committee. - The Complaints Handling Committee reviews the information and decides which function to proceed with (compliance review or conflict/problem resolution function). The Complaints Handling Committee submits the information to the conflict resolution facilitator.
Within 20 working days of receiving the complaint or claim (maximum of 35 working days in justified special cases)	Step 2. Evaluation of the complaint or claim - The Conflict Resolution Facilitator shall prepare the Compliance Verification Report and the Follow-up and Monitoring Plan in accordance with the verification of the Environmental and Social Policy Compliance Verification Expert in accordance with the PPR and the Environmental and Social Management Plan approved in the Full Proposal by the Adaptation Fund. - The Conflict Resolution Facilitator shall submit the Compliance Verification Report and the Monitoring and Surveillance Plan to the Claims Management Committee. - The Claims Management Committee communicates the Compliance Verification Report and the decision on the conclusions and recommendations to the OP.
The time required depends on the specific conditions, context, nature and complexity of the issues.	Step 3. Conflict resolution - The conflict resolution facilitator coordinates with stakeholders on their participation in problem-solving activities through (a) consultative dialogue (b) information exchange (c) research (d) a mediation mechanism (e) other problem-solving methods. - The Conflict Management Facilitator and the parties involved (including the Executor) agree on corrective measures.

	- The Conflict Management Facilitator submits the Problem Resolution Report to the Claims Management Committee with a copy to the OP. - The Implementer submits the Implementation Plan. - The Environmental and Social Policy Compliance Verification Expert shall participate in Step 3 of Conflict Resolution. - The Complaints Handling Committee approves the Problem Resolution Report and the Monitoring and Supervision Plan presented by the Conflict Resolution Facilitator. - The Complaints Handling Committee approves the Implementation Plan submitted by the Implementer. - The Complaints Handling Committee reviews the Monitoring and Supervision Plan reports. - If no agreement is reached, the problem resolution process ends.
The time required depends on the specific conditions of the Plan and the Project.	Step 4. Implementation and supervision. - The Implementation Plan is executed by the Implementer, while the Conflict Management Facilitator follows the Monitoring Plan and its reporting schedule.
Within 10 working days of the completion of the Implementation Plan (maximum of 20 working days in justified special cases)	Step 5. End of the problem-solving process. - Once the Implementation Plan and Monitoring Plan have been completed, the Conflict Management Facilitator completes a Final Closing Report. - The Claims Management Committee approves the Final Closing Report. - The PO approves the Final Closure Report. - The PO sends the Final Closing Report to the interested parties.

Sustainability of the complaints' mechanism

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

As part of the planned awareness-raising and training activities, the project envisages the signing of agreements to ensure the social and environmental sustainability of the project results. During project implementation, support will be provided for the incorporation of risk management activities into the overall climate risk management process, thus ensuring longer-term environmental and social results.

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

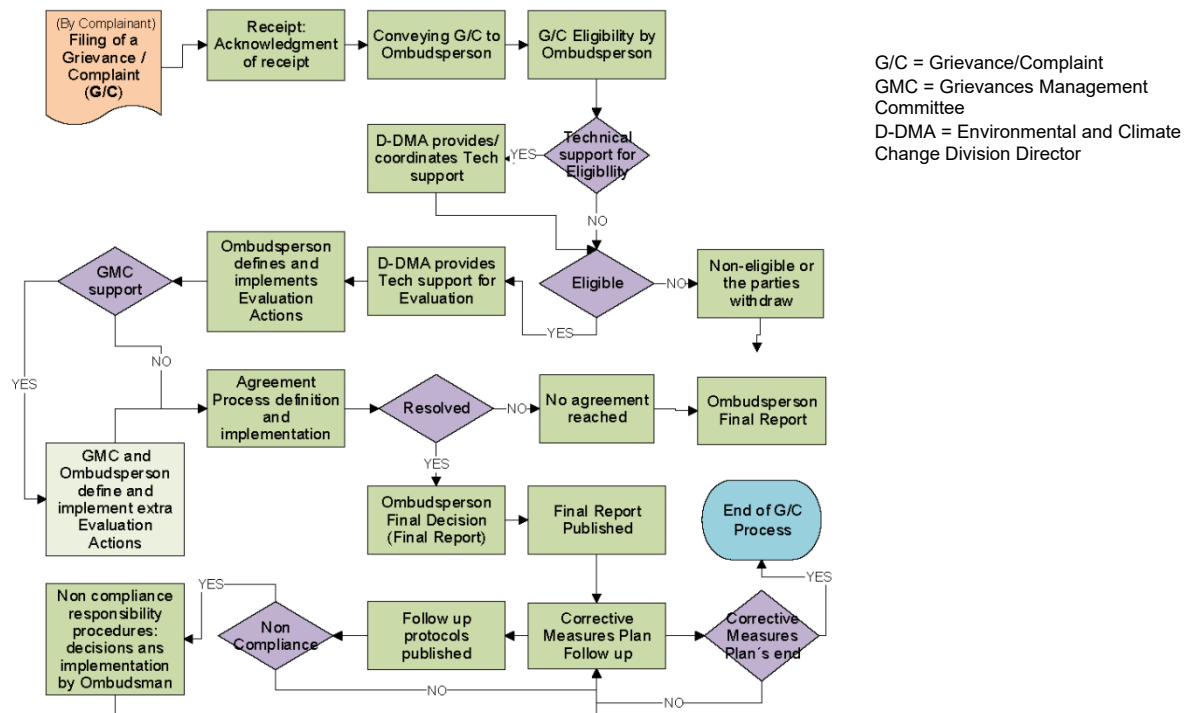


Figure 1. Grievances and complaints reception mechanism

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

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

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

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

This includes, where appropriate, facilitating access to:

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

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

14. Appendices

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix II – Exclusion List

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

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

- Production or marketing of any product or activity considered illegal under the laws of the host country, or international regulations, conventions and agreements, or subject to international prohibitions, such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone-depleting substances, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), wildlife or products regulated by CITES.
- Production or trade in arms and ammunition.
- Production or marketing of tobacco.
- Gambling, casinos and equivalent companies.
- Production or marketing of radioactive materials. This does not apply to the purchase of medical equipment, quality control (measurement) equipment, and any equipment where CAF considers the radioactive source to be trivial and/or adequately protected.
- Production or marketing of asbestos-free fibres. This does not apply to the purchase and use of asbestos cement sheets, where the asbestos content is less than 20%.
- Purchase and use of PCB compounds.
- Production of pharmaceutical products that are being phased out of the market or that have been banned internationally in accordance with the United Nations publication on banned products: consolidated list of products whose consumption or sale has been banned, withdrawn, subject to strict restrictions or not approved by governments (latest version from 2001 in English: www.who.int/medicines/library/qsm/edm-qsm-2001-3/edm-qsm-2001_3.pdf).
- Pesticides or herbicides that are being phased out of the market or have been banned internationally in accordance with the Rotterdam Convention (www.pic.int) and the Stockholm Convention (www.pops.int).
- Production of substances harmful to the ozone layer that are being phased out of the international market. These substances, known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS), are regulated by the Montreal Protocol. There is a list of these substances and the target dates for their reduction and withdrawal from the market. Some of the chemical compounds regulated by the Montreal Protocol are aerosols, refrigerants, foaming agents, solvents and fire protection agents. More information is available at www.unep.org/ozone/montreal.shtml.
- Production or use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- Fishing in marine environments with nets longer than 2.5 kilometres.
- Commercial logging operations that harvest primary material from primary tropical forests.
- Production or marketing of timber or other forest products that do not come from sustainably managed forests.
- Production, trade, storage or transport of large volumes of hazardous chemicals, or the use of hazardous chemicals on a commercial scale.
- Production or activities that affect the ownership of territory or land, or that are claimed for allocation, by indigenous peoples without the documented free, prior and informed consent of those peoples.
- Operations in protected areas² with special legislation, when the operation has the potential to

² Also within designated areas in each location, including, among others, World Heritage Sites (as defined in the World Heritage Convention: <http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/main.htm>), the United Nations list of protected parks and reserves, wetlands declared to be of international

jeopardise the objective of creating/establishing the protected area.

- ³CAF does not finance operations to borrowers or executing agencies that carry out production or activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour and/or child labour.

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

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

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

³ Forced labour means any work or service, performed involuntarily, that is obtained from an individual under threat of force or punishment.