



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.38/Inf.80
20-21 October 2026

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

LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION REGIONAL PROPOSAL FOR FIJI, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MONGOLIA, PAKISTAN, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SRI LANKA, AND VIET NAM



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
"PROGRAMME FOR LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC"

Project Title	Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and the Pacific
Project ID	AF00000522
Category	LLA
Type	Regional project
Stage	Concept
Country	Regional (Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Vietnam)
Implementing Entity	UNDP
Financing Requested	USD 30,000,000.00
Reviewer	Linda Ogallo

Co-reviewer(s)

IE Contact Person

Diana Salvemini, Edgar Santos, Hugo Remaury, Mahlet Ambachew, Mariam Zafar, Missale Woldegiorgis, Siriboon Ketphichai, Wirunpat Meebungprav

Secretariat's Overall Comment

The project 'Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and the Pacific' aims to finance the design and implementation of local Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs) comprised of LLA initiatives planned, developed, implemented and coordinated by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs).

The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant and/or project formulation assistance grant of USD 272,000.

The initial technical review raises several issues, such as devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level, cost-effectiveness and sustainability, compliance with ESP, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review. Please note that the components order and financing totals in the "Requested Financing Overview" do not match the proposal document. This needs to be corrected.

The second technical review finds that the proposal has addressed some of the CRs and CARs, with outstanding issues concerning the devolution of decision-making to the lowest appropriate level, the justification for execution costs above the applicable cap, sustainability and the institutional route beyond programme closure, completion of the ESP screening checklist, and alignment of Part III with the Fund's Results Framework, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.

Country Eligibility

Are all of the participating countries parties to the Paris Agreement and/or the Kyoto Protocol?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam are all parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the the Paris Agreement.

Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

Response: No

Secretariat: The Background and Context section attributes hazard types to countries at a high level, heatwaves (Mongolia, Pakistan), heavy rainfall (Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam), cyclones (Fiji, Solomon Islands), but does not go beyond hazard identification to vulnerability as such (exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of the target populations and production systems). The proposal states that a more detailed description of countries' climate rationale and their economic, social, development and environmental context will be provided at the fully developed proposal stage. It is not fully clear from the text how climate vulnerability itself informed the selection of these eight countries.

There is also some tension between the claim of a "shared typology across the eight countries" (p. 13) and the acknowledgement in the same paragraph that ecological, socio-economic and climate-risk contexts "will be quite different across the eight countries." The shared element appears to be methodological (the LAP process) rather than typological.

CR1: Please clarify, briefly and to the extent feasible at concept stage, the vulnerability rationale underpinning the selection of the eight participating countries, in particular how climate vulnerability informed the cohort's composition, and what the common vulnerability characteristics are that the programme is responding to across the eight countries. It would also be helpful to reconcile the reference to a "shared typology" with the acknowledged diversity of ecological and climate-risk contexts, so that the basis of commonality is unambiguous.

At the fully developed proposal stage, country-level vulnerability profiles, linking climate hazards to the exposure and sensitivity of the target Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, their production systems and the anticipated landscape/seascape typologies, will be expected, consistent with the commitment already made on p. 1.

Response: No

IE: Response to CR1: The eight countries were selected based on their overall climate vulnerabilities as defined in the respective NAPs and NDCs, as well as their social, economic and environmental context, presence and status of Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups, existence of other programmes to build synergies with, and other factors, including UNDP's decades of experience with grassroots groups in the different countries. Common vulnerability characteristics are broadly defined given the stark differences in ecological and climate-risk contexts – the issue of "shared typology" has been better defined as a shared need for a common methodological approach to locally led adaptation regardless of differences in ecological and climate-risk contexts that aims at enabling stakeholder to exercise agency and thus empower themselves to act effectively and consistently in building their resilience to climate impacts. The proposal, to the extent possible at concept stage and to try staying within the 50 pages limit, has been revised to reflect the above on page 13. Final landscape selection will take place by the NLAC during full proposal formulation after comprehensive analysis of production systems, IP and LC exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards, ecosystem and landscape dynamics, and multiple other factors.

Response: No

Secretariat: The "shared typology" language no longer appears, and p. 13 now states explicitly that the regional design is justified by a shared methodological framework (the LAP approach) rather than by similarity of context, while acknowledging that ecological, socio-economic and climate-risk contexts differ across the eight countries. The basis of commonality is now unambiguous on this point.

The vulnerability element remains outstanding. The Background and Context section (p. 1) is unchanged in

substance. Relatedly, the only country-selection criteria stated in the document (p. 16) are institutional and operational, none of which are climate-related. As drafted, the text therefore reads as though the cohort was assembled on delivery-readiness grounds, with the climate narrative added around it. The response gives a fuller account than the proposal does. In the document itself, p. 16 still lists only UNDP grant-making experience, the existence of climate policies and plans (NDC, NAP), and country acceptance of civil society activity. Vulnerability, the presence of Indigenous Peoples, and the synergy consideration do not appear. Since the response sheet does not travel with the proposal, this content needs to be visible in the revised text.

CR1: Not cleared.

The response to CR1 below sets out the basis on which the eight countries were selected. This account is more complete than the criteria currently listed on p.16, which are largely operational. Please reflect the selection rationale given in the response within the proposal itself, briefly and to the extent feasible at concept stage. A short addition to the criteria on p. 16 would be sufficient; the note in the response that exposure and sensitivity of production systems and of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will be analysed during landscape selection at full proposal stage is also worth stating in the text, as it signals where the vulnerability analysis will sit.

Project Eligibility

Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: As per the letters dated February 16, 2026 (Mongolia), June 4, 2026 (Maldives), January 30, 2026 (Malaysia), January 21, 2026 (Solomon Islands), January 29, 2026 (Sri Lanka), February 6, 2026 (Fiji, Pakistan, Viet Nam).

Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than one hundred(100) pages for the fully-developed project document, and one hundred(100) pages for its annexes?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: The proposal is 50 pages plus annexes.

Does the proposal describe how the project/programme components will contribute to climate resilience? Does the proposal describe how it will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Sections A and C of Part II set out a coherent results chain: participatory vulnerability analysis at landscape scale (Component 1) determines the outcomes and outputs that grant-funded initiatives (Component 2) are designed to achieve, with performance assessment and codification feeding adaptive management

(Component 3). The resilience logic is anchored in hydrological function: reduced runoff, improved infiltration and recharge, improved water-use efficiency; with aggregation of complementary initiatives at watershed scale presented as the mechanism producing landscape-level rather than dispersed benefits. The illustrative menu of initiatives on pages 9–10 is sufficiently concrete for concept stage.

CR2: On the proportion of resources reaching IPs and LCs, page 4 states an aim of 60% of grant resources going to IPs and LCs, with allocation across countries deferred to the fully developed proposal. The denominator is not defined, and the composition of the balance of Component 2 is not explained. Please clarify what the stated 60% figure refers to (total programme cost, total Component 2, or the grants envelope within Component 2), and indicate in broad terms what the remaining share of Component 2 comprises. Please also provide, at least indicatively, the logic that will govern allocation across the eight countries.

CR3: Please approximate direct and indirect beneficiary numbers.

Sourcing and screening of locally led small grant proposals is described in Section C through a four-step process. Preliminary eligibility criteria are set out on page 6 across six categories, including explicit reference to the AF concreteness mandate, the eight LLA principles, the AF Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, and non-duplication. Environmental and social screening of grant-funded activities is addressed in Section M, with each grant initiative subject to its own screening and the ESMP, FPIC provisions and grievance mechanism to be provided at the fully developed proposal stage.

However some gaps remain. Sourcing is effectively closed rather than open: proposals originate with participants in the LAP development workshop, and there is no open call or alternative entry point described for communities, groups or organisations within the landscape that do not attend. Given that the programme's rationale rests on accessibility of finance to IPs and LCs, it is not clear how proponents outside the initial workshop cohort would enter the process in later cycles.

Second, the organisational eligibility criteria appear to sit in tension with other parts of the proposal. Page 6 requires proponents to be non-governmental, community-based, Indigenous People or civil society not-for-profit organisations "where required," with at least three years of relevant experience. Page 14 states that locally led initiatives are undertaken by organised groups "whether formally or non-formally constituted." It is unclear whether informal or newly formed IP and LC groups (often those furthest from finance) can hold grants directly, or would need to work through an intermediary. The criterion that "projects already underway or existing do not usually qualify" also reads against the emphasis elsewhere on upscaling and continuity.

Third, on screening capacity and roles. The NLAC is described as the approving body with majority IP and LC membership, while the National Coordinator conducts due diligence for AF compliance. The division of responsibility for technical screening, national technical standards compliance and E&S screening between the NC, the NLAC and the UNDP Country Office is not consistently described, and conflict-of-interest management is addressed only through declarations by NLAC members.

CR4: Please clarify how grant proposals may be sourced from IPs, LCs and community organisations within a target landscape that did not participate in the initial LAP development workshop, and whether informal or non-formally constituted groups are eligible to receive grants directly. Please also reconcile the organisational eligibility criteria on page 6 with the description of proponents on page 14, and clarify the intent of the criterion excluding projects already underway.

CR5: Please clarify how responsibilities for technical screening, compliance with national technical standards, and environmental and social screening are distributed between the National Coordinator, the NLAC and UNDP, and how these functions will be resourced given the volume of grants envisaged.

CAR1: The document uses several variants for the same body: "National Landscape Adaptation Committee (NLAC)," "National Landscape Advisory Committee (NLAC)" (page 20) and "NCAC" (page 25) and Component 3 is titled "Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System" in Part I but "Global Learning and Knowledge Management System" in Part II. Please ensure consistent terminology throughout, as these bodies and systems carry distinct decision-making and oversight functions.

At the fully developed proposal stage, the grant cycle structure (including whether more than one grant cycle is envisaged within the October 2027–October 2032 implementation period, given the 24-month grant ceiling), the operational manual governing solicitation and approval, and the institutional anchoring of NLACs beyond programme closure with explicit linkages to NAP and NDC processes will be expected, consistent with the pre-concept recommendation.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR2: The proposal has been revised to clarify that the Programme will aim to allocate 60% of the total Programme Cost (i.e., excluding the IE fee) as grant resources to IPs and LCs. Pending the development of the detailed budget at full proposal stage, Component 2 is expected to comprise both grant resources, which will contribute to the 60% target, as well as non-grant resources to support activities related to capacity building, stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing and management, benefitting directly Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Indicatively, the allocation of resources across the eight participating countries is expected to be based on an equal-share approach, complemented, where available, by historical data on the number and value of grants awarded in each country based on UNDP's previous grant-making experience in each country. However, the indicative allocation may be fine-tuned during the development of the detailed budget at full proposal stage, taking into account each country's absorptive capacity, based on UNDP and SGP three decades of experience implementing grant-making activities in these countries.

Response to CR3: Based on UNDP and SGP's experience implementing grant-making activities in these countries and pending a more detailed analysis to be undertaken during the development of the Programme Results Framework at full proposal stage, preliminary estimates indicate approximately 51,791 direct beneficiaries and 219,014 indirect beneficiaries.

Sourcing and screening of locally led small grant proposals is described in Section C through a four-step process. Preliminary eligibility criteria are set out on page 6 across six categories, including explicit reference to the AF concreteness mandate, the eight LLA principles, the AF Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, and non-duplication. Environmental and social screening of grant-funded activities is addressed in Section M, with each grant initiative subject to its own screening and the ESMP, FPIC provisions and grievance mechanism to be provided at the fully developed proposal stage. However some gaps remain. Sourcing is effectively closed rather than open: proposals originate with participants in the LAP development workshop, and there is no open call or alternative entry point described for communities, groups or organisations within the landscape that do not attend. Given that the programme's rationale rests on accessibility of finance to IPs and LCs, it is not clear how proponents outside the initial workshop cohort would enter the process in later cycles. Second, the organisational eligibility criteria appear to sit in tension with other parts of the proposal. Page 6 requires proponents to be non-governmental, community-based, Indigenous People or civil society not-for-profit organisations "where required," with at least three years of relevant experience. Page 14 states that locally led initiatives are undertaken by organised groups "whether formally or non-formally constituted." It is unclear whether informal or newly formed IP and LC groups (often those furthest from finance) can hold grants directly, or would need to work through an intermediary. The criterion that "projects already underway or existing do not usually qualify" also reads against the emphasis elsewhere on upscaling and continuity. Third, on screening capacity and roles. The NLAC is described as the approving body with majority IP and LC membership, while the

National Coordinator conducts due diligence for AF compliance. The division of responsibility for technical screening, national technical standards compliance and E&S screening between the NC, the NLAC and the UNDP Country Office is not consistently described, and conflict-of-interest management is addressed only through declarations by NLAC members.

Response to CR4: The LAP will consist of multiple priorities identified during the initial LAP workshops attended by local organizations (of IPs and LCs) who are willing to participate at this formative stage. LAPs will define the general strategic resilience outcomes (e.g. stable supply of water) as well as the overall outputs (reforestation of headwaters, wetlands conservation) necessary to achieve the outcomes. Based on jointly designed and approved LAPs, calls for proposals open to all organizations and communities (formally or non-formally constituted) to finance locally identified activities (e.g. planting x hectares with native species; establishing a community wetland protected area) will be launched in the landscapes, aiming at generating the outputs identified in the LAPs. In other words, the LAPs will provide the overarching framework for investment in resilience enhancing production or other activities (Component 1) while Component 2 will operationalize these LAPs through call for proposals open to all local stakeholders independently on whether they have participated in LAP-related consultation processes. Depending on the national and local contexts, such calls may happen once or multiple times during the Programme implementation, or remain open throughout implementation. Please see revised text on page 6 reconciling the organizational criteria with the description of proponents on page 14, as well as clarifying the eligibility criterion related to excluding projects already underway.

Response to CR5: National Coordinators acting as Secretaries to the NLACs will carry out a first due diligence and compliance check with relevant national technical standards and those related to ESP Principles when screening the grant proposals received from IPs and LCs organizations. NCs will, as necessary, guide the organizations to ensure alignment of the proposals with such standards and ESP Principles, seeking support from relevant UNDP Country Office experts as needed, as a second layer of due diligence. Those grant proposals deemed aligned and consistent with these standards and ready for submission will be presented to the NLACs, the main decision-making bodies in each country, for formal review, including alignment with relevant technical standards and environmental and social screenings, and approval. The UNDP Country Office is represented on the NLAC and provides another layer of due diligence. This will be reflected in the implementation arrangements section of the full proposal.

UNDP's experience with the Small Grant Programme has shown that the above functions, while they represent a manageable budgetary expense, need to be resourced appropriately, as communicated in the response to CAR5. Participation in the NLAC will be voluntary, without monetary compensation. Travel expenses for project site visits or to NLAC meetings will be covered by the Programme budget. More precise calculations will be made when developing the detailed budget at full proposal stage, in line with other similar UNDP initiatives recently approved by the Board.

See additional text under section II.G clarifying these responsibilities.

Response to CAR1: The funding proposal has been revised to ensure the use of consistent terminology throughout.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR2: Cleared on page 4.

Revised concept now defines the denominator: 60% of total Programme Cost as grants to IPs and LCs. The figure reconciles with Output 2.1 in the Part III table (16,285,539 against a total programme cost of 27,272,727), and the balance of Component 2 is identifiable there as Output 2.2 capacity strengthening (2,873,919). Page 4 also indicates the basis for country allocation at full proposal stage.

CR3: Cleared on page 19.

Revised concept states approximately 51,791 direct and 219,014 indirect beneficiaries, with the caveat that these are preliminary pending the Programme Results Framework.

CR5: Cleared on pages 18 and 26.

The revised concept now set out a consistent three-layer arrangement: the National Coordinator, as Secretary to the NLAC, conducts first due diligence against the ESP, Gender Policy, national technical standards and non-duplication; UNDP Country Office experts provide a second layer; the NLAC decides, with the Country Office also represented on it. The commitment to detail actors, instruments, periodicity and reporting in the implementation arrangements of the full proposal is noted, and the volume of grants relative to National Coordinator capacity would be worth testing at that point.

CR4: Not cleared.

Two of the three elements are addressed: page 6 now reads "formally or non-formally constituted," which resolves the tension with page 14, and the exclusion of existing projects is now qualified by reference to upscaling initiatives and strategic value within the LAP. Section C describes proposals as originating with those present at the LAP development workshop, with the National Coordinator working with interested participants there. What is not yet described is how a community group or organisation in the same landscape that was not at that workshop, would enter the process in a subsequent grant cycle. Since the programme's premise is improved access to adaptation finance for IPs and LCs, please indicate briefly how proposals can be sourced beyond the initial workshop cohort over the life of the programme.

CAR1: Not cleared.

Page 21 still refers to "National Landscape Advisory Committees (NLACs)" against "National Landscape Adaptation Committee" elsewhere. The knowledge management system is "Regional" in the component title but described as "a global knowledge management system" on pages 7 and 20, and is abbreviated both LKM (page 11) and LKMS (page 13). Outcome 3 also appears in two different formulations: the Part I table gives "Knowledge from LAPs and landscape planning and management initiatives used to strengthen climate adaptation policies and strategies," while pages 21 and 35 and the Part III table give "Co-production of knowledge by Indigenous practitioners and trained scientists." Please align these throughout, including in the results framework, since the outcome statement will carry through to the fully developed proposal.

Does the project/programme align with the LLA principles?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section B presents a structured table addressing all eight LLA principles individually. Alignment is strongest on Principles 1, 2, 4 and 5, where the narrative is supported by identifiable design features rather than assertion: Devolving decision-making (P1), addressing structural inequalities (P2), investing in local capabilities (P4), building understanding of climate risk (P5).

Three principles are addressed more weakly, in each case because the response describes what the grantees or platforms will do rather than what the programme itself will do.

1. Principle 3, patient and predictable funding; remains the least well substantiated. The response in the table (page 14) largely describes collective action by organised groups and their capacity to advocate for future finance from investors, donors or government, rather than the programme's own financing structure. Notably, the concept note does not indicate whether phased, repeat or multi-year grant support to the same grantee is envisaged. With an implementation period of October 2027 to October 2032 and a 24-month grant ceiling, the question of whether a grantee can access successive cycles of support is material to whether the funding can be

described as patient.

2. Principle 6, flexible programming and learning. The response describes adaptive management by grantees within their own initiatives. It does not describe flexibility at programme level; whether LAPs can be revised mid-implementation, whether resources can be reallocated between landscapes or countries in response to performance or emerging need, or whether grant terms can be adjusted where implementation conditions change.

3. Principle 7, transparency and accountability. Downward accountability is the substance of this principle, and the response instead concludes that the NLAC monitors LAP delivery and reports to UNDP, an upward reporting line. The mechanisms through which the programme is accountable to IPs and LCs are not described here. No description is given of how grant decisions, allocations or programme financial information would be disclosed to communities in the landscape.

UNDP serves as both Implementing Entity and Executing Entity and also sits on each NLAC. Conflict-of-interest management is addressed only through signed declarations by NLAC members and disclosure of relationships to proponents. Given that Principles 1 and 7 both turn on genuine devolution and downward accountability, this arrangement warrants clearer treatment.

CR6: Please clarify how the programme design operationalizes patient and predictable funding for local actors, in particular whether phased, repeat or successive grant support to the same grantee organisation within the programme period is envisaged, and how continuity of support to IP and LC organisations will be maintained across the LAP implementation cycle.

CR7: Please clarify how flexibility is provided for at programme level, including whether LAPs may be revised during implementation and whether resources may be reallocated between landscapes or countries in response to implementation experience.

CR8: Please clarify how downward accountability to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will be given effect, for example, how grant decisions, allocations and programme performance information will be disclosed to communities in the target landscapes, and how UNDP's concurrent roles as Implementing Entity, Executing Entity and NLAC member will be managed so as not to constrain devolved decision-making.

At the fully developed proposal stage, the grievance mechanism, the operational manual governing grant approval, and the elaboration of the separation between oversight and execution functions referred to on page 5.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR6: Based on UNDP experience with similar grant-making mechanisms, and given the likely limited capacity of IPs and LCs organizations seeking funding from the Programme, the vast majority of grant proposals are expected to be less than USD 75,000. Even though the amount awarded to any single organization is expected to be capped at USD 75,000 over the five years of Programme lifetime, the organization will be allowed to receive several grants over the course of Programme implementation, subject to performance and availability of funds, as long as the cumulative amount awarded over the programme lifetime does not exceed the USD 75,000 threshold. Strategic grants of up to USD 150,000 can also be awarded, whenever the organization intends to enable scaling up and replication of tested approaches and tools in multiple locations/communities and to consolidate efforts of several Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. This approach would be able to guarantee patient and predictable finance whenever initiatives are structured and implemented appropriately. This would also mean that there would be multiple opportunities to request grant

support throughout the five-year course of LAP implementation, particularly taking into account LAP progress assessment and adaptive management. A sentence has been added in Part II.B.

Response to CR7: LAPs will be living documents owned by each country and, as such, can be revised during implementation. While the country allocations will be fine-tuned during the development of the detailed budget at full proposal stage, the allocation of resources across the eight participating countries is expected to be based on an equal-share approach, complemented, where available, by historical data on the number and value of grants awarded in each country based on UNDP's previous grant-making experience in each country. Based on periodic assessments of implementation progress, it may be feasible to reallocate funding across countries as needed, in close collaboration with Designated Authorities and NLACs, and in line with provisions from the Fund's Policy on Project post-approval requests for changes in projects/programmes.

Response to CR8: LAP design, implementation and overall performance will be analyzed by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms in periodic meetings attended by the National Coordinator and NLAC representatives, as appropriate. All information will be disclosed transparently to landscape-level multi-stakeholder platform participants regarding grant decisions, allocations, lessons learned and performance indicators. The platforms will be empowered to take adaptive management decisions regarding LAP performance, including performance of individual grant initiatives. At national level this information will be disseminated through the NLAC, which will have a majority of non-governmental representatives, particularly including IP and LC representatives. NLAC representatives will be identified through an open call for nominations. UNDP will not constrain devolved decision-making at any level of implementation and execution. At landscape-level, multi-stakeholders platforms established under Component 1 will be coordinating directly with IP and LC organizations. At national level, NLACs (as the main decision-making body in the countries) will be composed of about 7 to 12 members, with a majority of NSC members from the non-governmental sector (identified through an open call for nominations) and only one UNDP representative. The full proposal will, as part of Part III.A., expand on the arrangements for programme implementation, including on the clear separation between implementation (Programme oversight) and execution (administration of the day-to-day activities).

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR6: Not cleared.

The concept note carries only the sentence at page 14 that cumulative support capped at USD 75,000, or USD 150,000 for strategic grants, "will allow for multiple funding opportunities throughout implementation." As drafted, repeat support reads as a consequence of the ceiling rather than a design feature. The response clears it but is not included in the concept. Kindly add the response to page 14 as would clear this.

CR7: Not cleared.

Nothing in the concept note addresses programme-level flexibility. Adaptive management is described throughout as something grantees and landscape platforms practise within their own initiatives; page 44 describes LAPs as living planning instruments in the context of sustainability, which is a different point. No allocation logic or reallocation provision appears anywhere in the text. The response clears this clarification but is not included in the concept, kindly include it in Part II.B or alongside the allocation reference on page 4.

CR8: Not cleared.

Page 5 now defers the separation between implementation and execution to the fully developed proposal, which addresses part of the CR. Otherwise the concept is unchanged: the Principle 7 entry on page 15 still concludes with the NLAC reporting to UNDP, an upward line, and NLAC membership is described qualitatively without size or nomination process. The response supplies both missing elements but is not included in the proposal, kindly reflect it in the Principle 7 entry at page 15 and in the NLAC description at pages 5 and 16 as this would clear this.

Does the proposal describe how the project/programme would build added value through the regional or multi-regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however some clarification is required.

On the LKMS and measurable cross-country value, the response is well constructed. Three functional mechanisms are set out, each with associated measurable outputs. On economies of scale and shared methodology, the concept note identifies the development and refinement of shared LAP guidance and training materials, the design and operation of the LKMS platform, the sourcing and deployment of specialized technical expertise across multiple national programmes, and the organization of regional capacity-strengthening events. Pages 7 and 11 add the Locally-led Adaptation Community of Practice linking the eight LAPs, adaptation of the existing SGP Knowledge Management System to host the LKM, and consultation with the UNFCCC LCIPP. Page 33 notes intended coordination with other LLA Aggregator MIEs and RIEs on M&E, KM and joint products.

However, page 13 states that the shared typology across the eight countries responds to the common necessity of local stakeholders to exercise agency and act collectively in managing their landscapes, while acknowledging in the same paragraph that ecological, socio-economic and climate-risk contexts will be quite different across the eight countries. The proposal then reframes the regional justification as methodological rather than typological: the regional design is described as primarily justified by application of a shared methodological framework whose consistency enables systematic comparison.

The regional value proposition rests almost entirely on Component 3, which accounts for roughly 14% of total programme cost. Components 1 and 2 are structured as eight parallel national processes with common methodology. This means the case turns on the LKMS actually delivering the comparative analytical function described, and on the regional coordination architecture being adequate to sustain it.

The eight countries span two sub-regions with distinct regional policy architectures; ASEAN frameworks for Malaysia, Viet Nam and to some extent Sri Lanka, and the FRDP for Fiji and Solomon Islands, while Mongolia, Pakistan and Maldives sit outside both. Section F reflects this, but the concept note does not explain how a single regional coordination and learning structure will function coherently across this policy diversity, or whether sub-regional differentiation is envisaged.

CR9: Please reconcile the reference to a "shared typology across the eight countries" (page 13) with the acknowledgement in the same passage that ecological, socio-economic and climate-risk contexts differ substantially, so that the basis of the regional justification is stated unambiguously. If the justification rests on methodological consistency rather than typological commonality, it would be clearer to say so directly.

CR10: Please clarify, to the extent feasible at concept stage, how the regional coordination and learning architecture will function across the two distinct sub-regional policy contexts represented in the cohort (ASEAN and Pacific frameworks, with Mongolia, Pakistan and Maldives outside both), and whether any sub-regional differentiation in coordination, peer exchange or comparative analysis is envisaged.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR9: Revised text on page 13 emphasizes a common methodological approach based on the collective necessity of local stakeholders to exercise their agency and act collaboratively in managing their

landscapes for socio-ecological resilience at scale.

Response to CR10: The UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, with the Programme Manager based at the UNDP regional office in Bangkok, will ensure proper coordination across the two distinct sub-regional policy contexts, as well as Maldives, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Peer exchange, capacity development and knowledge management may be differentiated sub-regionally based on contextual similarities or specific requests. The proposal, to the extent possible at concept stage and to try staying within the 50 pages limit as much as possible, has been revised to reflect the above in Part II.A.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR9: Cleared.

The "shared typology" formulation has been removed from page 13. The passage now states directly that the regional design is primarily justified by application of a shared methodological framework (the LAP approach) whose consistency across countries enables systematic comparison of technical outcomes and process quality, and that this comparability would not be achievable through parallel national proposals operating under different frameworks. The acknowledgement of differing ecological, socio-economic and climate-risk contexts now sits alongside this without contradiction. The basis of the regional justification is unambiguous.

CR10: Not cleared.

The response and the revised text state that a coordination sits with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific through a Programme Manager in Bangkok, and sub-regional differentiation of peer exchange, capacity development and knowledge management is possible. This answers the question of whether sub-regional differentiation is envisaged, and it locates the coordination function. However what remains unanswered is the coherence of the learning and comparative function across the policy diversity. The differentiation is also stated conditionally ("may be differentiated... based on... specific requests"), which leaves it as a possibility rather than a design feature.

Please state briefly whether comparative analysis and learning under the LKMS will operate across the eight countries as a single pool or be organised sub-regionally with cross-cutting synthesis, and how Maldives, Mongolia and Pakistan are positioned within that structure. One or two sentences in Part II.A would suffice at concept stage; detailed arrangements can be developed at full proposal.

Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for their potential to provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund? Does the project/programme address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however some clarifications remain.

The Initial Gender Analysis is included in Annex 1. A synthesis of preliminary country-specific gender analyses covering all eight countries, structured around differentiated climate burdens, men's distinct risks and capabilities, and three categories of structural barrier, with country-level evidence under each, followed by Programme Design Implications. Initial consultation reports are also reflected, with Section J documenting

stakeholders consulted, dates and techniques by country. The indicative scale and nature of grant-supported initiatives is provided (pages 6, 9–10).

On screening for benefits, the preliminary eligibility criteria on page 6 include relevant provisions. Page 19 adds that eligibility criteria contextualized for each LAP will reference equitable distribution of benefits to vulnerable communities, households and individuals, and that each proposal will be reviewed by the NLAC for equity in benefits accruing to individuals, households, organizations and communities. Page 35 notes that eligibility criteria, including reference to the ESP and Gender Policy, will be discussed in detail at the LAP workshop, which supports accessibility for prospective applicants.

However, the screening described is criteria-based rather than procedural. The criteria proposals must satisfy are set out, but the method by which they will be assessed including which actor applies the ESP and Gender Policy screen, against what instrument, at what point in the cycle, and with what documented output. This is not described. Page 25 states that the "NCAC" will identify proposals with technical elements and assess compliance with national technical standards and the Fund's ESP; page 18 assigns due diligence for AF compliance to the National Coordinator. These two accounts are not consistent. Given that the NLAC is a multi-stakeholder body whose comparative advantage lies in local legitimacy rather than safeguards expertise, it would be useful to understand how ESP and Gender Policy screening capacity is assured at the point of decision.

Second, gender appears in the eligibility criteria as an inclusion requirement but is not connected to the substance of Annex 1. The gender analysis identifies specific barriers: time poverty limiting women's participation in meetings and training, lack of land title and collateral, low representation in local decision-making bodies; and recommends simplified, accessible grant mechanisms for women-led initiatives and investment in labour-saving technologies. The screening criteria do not reflect these findings: there is no indication that women-led or women-majority applicant groups will be prioritized, that application requirements will be simplified for such groups, or that any indicative share of grants or resources is expected to reach women-led initiatives. This leaves a gap between the analysis and the mechanism.

CR11: Please clarify the procedure by which grant proposals will be screened for compliance with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy: specifically which actor conducts the screen, against what instrument, at what stage of the grant cycle, and how the outcome is recorded. Please also reconcile the accounts on pages 18 and 25 regarding responsibility for ESP and national technical standards compliance.

CR12: Please clarify how the findings of the preliminary gender analyses in Annex 1 will be operationalized in the grant eligibility and screening criteria, for example whether simplified application requirements, prioritization, or indicative targets for women-led or women-majority applicant organisations are envisaged, and whether sex-disaggregated data and gender outcome indicators will be tracked at programme level.

The proposal addresses structural inequalities affirmatively and with reasonable specificity for concept stage. The main limitation is that these commitments are largely expressed as representation and access, without specified thresholds. "Robust representation," "equitable representation" and "majority membership by IP and LC representatives" carry different degrees of precision; only the last is quantified. For groups facing the deepest structural exclusion, women within male-dominated customary governance systems, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, presence on a platform does not necessarily translate into influence, a point Annex 1 itself makes in relation to Malaysia and Mongolia, and in noting that women's representation in Vietnam falls below 20% in rural land management boards and forest protection committees.

Two contextual risks raised during consultation are also not yet reflected in the design response. The Pakistan consultations identify the risk of elite capture; the Fiji consultations with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs raise concerns about bypassing traditional governance and unequal benefit distribution. Where customary

governance structures are themselves implicated in the structural inequality the programme seeks to address (as Annex 1 notes for Fiji's chiefly structures) the programme will need a clear position on how it works with and through such structures while ensuring women and marginalized groups are not excluded.

CR13: Please clarify how meaningful influence, as distinct from representation, will be secured for women and other marginalized groups within NLACs and landscape platforms, and how the risks of elite capture and unequal benefit distribution identified in the Pakistan and Fiji consultations will be addressed in the programme design.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR11: The procedure by which grant proposals will be screened for compliance with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy is aligned with the procedure for screening proposals for compliance with national technical standards. National Coordinators acting as Secretaries to the NLACs will carry out a first due diligence and compliance check with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy when screening the grant proposals received from IPs and LCs organizations. NCs will, as necessary, guide the organizations to ensure alignment of the proposals with such these policies, seeking support from relevant UNDP Country Office experts as needed, as a second layer of due diligence. Those grant proposals deemed aligned and consistent with the policies and ready for submission will be presented to the NLACs, the main decision-making bodies in each country, for formal review and approval. The UNDP Country Office is represented on the NLAC and provides another layer of due diligence. This will be reflected in the implementation arrangements section of the full proposal.

See additional and revised text in part II.C. and part II.G.

Response to CR12: The findings of the preliminary gender analyses presented in Annex 1 will be further explored and refined during the comprehensive gender assessment and consultation processes to be carried out as part of full proposal development. These will include simplified application requirements, indicative targets for women-led or women-majority applications as part of both the Gender Action Plan and the Programme Results Framework to be developed at full proposal stage, and approvals for funding and technical assistance to women-led organizations for grant proposal development. During full proposal development, thresholds will be specified quantitatively for representation on the NLAC and multi-stakeholder landscape platforms. Sex-disaggregated data and gender outcome indicators will be tracked at LAP and overall programme level.

Response to CR13: During the formulation of the fully developed proposal, a comprehensive gender assessment and consultation process will fine-tune the preliminary findings from the initial gender analysis. Based on their outcomes, a Gender Action Plan and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed, seeking to address any expected challenges identified, such as those outlined in Pakistan and Fiji. Whenever needed and appropriate, such challenges, together with mitigation measures, will also be reflected in part III.B of the fully developed proposal in the measures for Financial and Programme Management section. For instance, NLACs will be directed to consider these risks in their reviews of individual grant proposals and if warranted, require mitigation measures prior to approval.

The contextual risks highlighted in the Pakistan and Fiji consultations, in particular, will be carefully analyzed and described and mitigation measures identified for working with existing social and governance structures. As mentioned above, identified quantitative thresholds (%) will be mandated for representation on the NLAC, and each NLAC will have a gender focal point. The National Coordinator and UNDP support staff will be specifically directed to promote and encourage the active participation of women and other marginalized groups within the NLACs and landscape platforms.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR11: Cleared on page 18 and 26.

Part II.C (page 18) and Part II.G (page 26) both now carry the sequence described in the response sheet: National Coordinators as Secretaries to the NLACs conducting first due diligence against the ESP and Gender Policy, UNDP Country Office experts as a second layer, and the Country Office on the NLAC as a third, with the NLAC deciding. Page 18 also commits the full proposal's implementation arrangements section to detailing actors, instruments, periodicity, indicators, and data management and reporting.

CR12: Not cleared.

The response is substantively responsive and specific, though it is not reflected in the concept: Simplified application requirements, indicative targets for women-led or women-majority applications carried into both the Gender Action Plan and the Programme Results Framework, technical assistance for women-led organisations in proposal development, quantified representation thresholds, and sex-disaggregated data and gender outcome indicators tracked at LAP and programme level. None of this appears in the concept note. The eligibility criteria on page 6 are unchanged, and Annex 1's recommendations remain unconnected to the mechanism. Deferring the detail to the Gender Action Plan and Results Framework at full proposal is appropriate; what is needed now is that the intent be visible in the document.

CR13: Not cleared.

The response addresses but it is not reflected in the concept. The gender focal point and the instruction to NLACs are the strongest elements, since they operate at the point of decision rather than in a subsequent document. None of this is in the concept note. Kindly include in Part II.B alongside Principle 2, or in the NLAC description, a paragraph capturing the focal point, the intended thresholds, and the direction to NLACs on elite capture and benefit distribution as this would clear this.

Does the programme describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed programme and explain how the regional or multi-regional approach would support cost-effectiveness

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however clarification is required.

The reasoning is internally coherent and follows a clear chain. The concept supports this with a track record argument, referencing UNDP's three decades of SGP experience and the independent joint evaluations of 2008, 2015 and 2021, which found the modality highly cost effective relative to comparable on-granting programmes implemented by international NGOs or multilateral institutions. The additional point that grantees contribute sweat equity, with an indicative 1:1 top-up target noted at page 41, reinforces the value proposition. The choice of scope is explained by reference to the LAP logic, in which multiple complementary initiatives aggregate to produce landscape-scale hydrological and socio-ecological benefits that individual dispersed grants would not. Initial thinking around alternative options is present and reasonably well developed for this stage. The component-by-component comparison table on pages 19–21 sets out the conventional or alternative approach against the proposed approach for each of the three components, and articulates why the alternative is expected to underperform.

The explanation of how the regional approach supports cost-effectiveness is adequate and consistent with the fuller regional value-add discussion at pages 12–13.

However, the concept makes two claims about the same delivery modality that appear to point in opposite directions. In Section E, the argument for cost-effectiveness is that granting directly to communities is cheaper

to administer than conventional approaches, because it removes the layers of institutional and operational cost that funding otherwise passes through.

Elsewhere, the argument for setting Programme Execution Costs at 3%, rather than the standard 1.5%, is that this modality is expensive to run: it requires continuous accompaniment of local actors across eight countries, transaction-heavy administration of a large number of small grants, and intensive participatory processes.

CR14: Please extend the cost-effectiveness reasoning in Section E to address, at least qualitatively, why the regional configuration is preferable to eight national LLA projects applying the same grant-making modality, so that the alternatives analysis speaks to the choice of regional scope and not only to the choice of direct-access modality.

CR15: Please clarify how the proposition in Section E that the modality reduces administrative and operational costs relates to the justification for Programme Execution Costs at 3%, which rests on the operational intensity of the same modality.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR14: The following text has been inserted in section E above the table.

A regional approach to establish locally-led Landscape Adaptation Programmes in multiple countries generates economies of scale in terms of capacity building, knowledge generation and exchange, potential financing and policy dialogue. The regional approach will permit the constituents of the different Landscape Adaptation Programmes to receive similar training materials and participate in regional or sub-regional capacity strengthening events – these events will also provide a venue for peer-to-peer exchange of information, experience and knowledge. The eight LAPs will be linked in a Locally-led Adaptation Community of Practice to share experiences related to their operations, LAP planning and strategies, knowledge generation, participatory methodologies (LAP design, implementation, M&E), and other issues. At the same time, economies of scale may be achieved with multi-country capacity building workshops; provision of technical assistance systemically to similar initiatives across the participating countries; partnership development and advocacy. This regional community of LAP practitioners will also arrange peer-to-peer exchanges and contribute to a global knowledge management system (under Component 3, below) with lessons learned by local Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the LAPs and other experiences. The knowledge generated in one landscape can be transmitted to the others in the regional programme, helping to strengthen the community of practice, learning and sharing among landscape organizations of all kinds. The knowledge generated will be codified and presented as analyses and inputs from national representatives to different regional or sub-regional policy discussion venues. Finally, as a regional programme, dialogues with potential financiers from public and private sectors will be facilitated given the potential scales of landscape interventions across multiple countries.

Response to CR15: While the regional modality reduces administrative and operational costs, these are still substantial despite the reduction. Locally led adaptation through a programme of locally driven landscape planning, management, and governance requires intensive support, particularly in those areas where climate vulnerability is highest, stakeholder capacities are insufficient and institutional engagement is weak. Robust programme execution support is indispensable in each participating country until local stakeholders have acquired the experience, capacities and confidence to plan and manage resource use across the landscape effectively. Operational intensity requires a commensurate intensity of execution support.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR15: Not cleared.

The response reconciles the clarification adequately: costs are reduced relative to conventional top-down delivery but remain substantial in absolute terms, because locally led landscape planning requires sustained

accompaniment where capacities are weakest, and operational intensity requires commensurate execution support but none of this none appears in the concept note. Section E still carries only the claim that direct funding reduces institutional, administrative and operational costs, with nothing qualifying it. kindly consider adding two or three sentences to that effect in Section E, adjacent to the existing claim, would clear this.

CR14: Not cleared.

Section E now describes the benefits of the regional configuration, but an alternatives analysis requires a stated alternative. The revised concept reproduces the economies-of-scale paragraph rather than stating the alternative against which the regional configuration is being compared. Please state briefly why that configuration would be more costly or less effective (the page 13 formulation about independent replication of shared functions already does this and could simply be carried across).

Is the programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments. If applicable, it is also possible to refer to regional plans and strategies where they exist.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section F responds comprehensively and is more than adequate at concept stage. At regional level, four frameworks are identified with a statement of consistency for each: the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025–2030, the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network, the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security, and the Pacific Islands Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

At national level, all eight countries are covered, with between two and four instruments each and a corresponding consistency statement. The instruments cited are current and relevant: NAPs for Fiji, Mongolia (2024–2030), Pakistan (2023), Sri Lanka (2016–2025) and Viet Nam (2021–2030); NDC 3.0 for Fiji, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands; national development plans and long-term visions for Fiji (NDP 2025–2029 and Vision 2050) and Solomon Islands (NDS 2016–2035); climate policy frameworks for Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives and Solomon Islands; and Viet Nam's National Green Growth Strategy. Notably, the table extends beyond climate instruments to include frameworks bearing directly on the programme's target groups and modality; Malaysia's National Orang Asli Development Blueprint and emerging OECM Framework, Sri Lanka's Prajashakthi community empowerment strategy, and Mongolia's Aimag and Soum Development Plans as sub-national planning vehicles. This is a genuine strength, as it demonstrates alignment with the governance and rights dimensions of the design and not only with climate policy. Section F also explains the mechanism by which alignment will be maintained downstream.

CR16: Please clarify why the omission of NDCs and NAPs for Malaysia and Maldives.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR16: References to both NDCs and NAPs have now been added in part II.F.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR16: Cleared on page 24.

Both instruments now appear for each country. Malaysia's entry now includes the National Adaptation Plan (with ongoing GCF/GIZ support, covering five priority sectors) and the Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025, with consistency statements for each. Maldives at page 24 likewise includes the National Adaptation Plan

(GCF/UNEP support) and the Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025, again with corresponding consistency statements. The NDC entries are substantive rather than nominal, Malaysia's references the commitment to conserve at least 20% of terrestrial areas by 2030, and Maldives' the emphasis on locally led and gender-responsive approaches.

Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for meeting the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund? Does the project provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however clarification is required.

UNDP Country Offices are assigned responsibility for identifying all relevant national technical standards during LAP development and implementation and for identifying relevant authorities to be consulted. Grant proposal eligibility criteria will include reference to the applicability of national technical standards for proposal elements and activities and their compliance with the Fund's ESP, which is consistent with the criteria set out on page 6. At review stage, proposals with technical elements are to be identified and assessed for applicability of and compliance with national technical standards and the Fund's ESP, with power to recommend revisions to achieve compliance.

The supporting table is substantial. All eight countries are covered, with the principal instruments identified: EIA and environmental protection legislation in each case, together with land, water, forestry, fisheries, construction and planning instruments where relevant. Several entries go beyond listing to indicate how the standard will be applied in practice. The Malaysia entries are the most operationally specific. The Mongolia entry describes a stepwise compliance process covering screening, permitting, technical design, implementation monitoring and commissioning. The Viet Nam entry sets out the sequence of preparation, review, disclosure and approval and identifies the clearing authorities.

However, the identity of the screening body is inconsistent. Section G refers throughout to the "NCAC," which appears nowhere else in the document and is presumably the NLAC. Page 18 assigns due diligence on AF compliance to the National Coordinator. Section G assigns identification of relevant standards to UNDP Country Offices but the compliance assessment to the "NCAC." The allocation of responsibility between the UNDP Country Office, the National Coordinator and the NLAC is therefore not settled, which matters here because national technical standards compliance is a technical determination with legal consequences.

Second, several entries state a conclusion about regulatory thresholds in advance of knowing what the grant-funded activities will be. Sri Lanka's entry states that formal EIA/IEE/SEA approvals are not anticipated given the limited scale of interventions, and that all proposed activities are expected to fall well below EIA/IEE/SEA thresholds. Malaysia's entry states that community-scale projects are generally below the EIA threshold. Mongolia's entry states that community-based initiatives generally do not require EIAs. These may prove correct, but since sub-projects are unidentified at this stage, and since the illustrative menu on pages 9–10 includes check dams, gully plugs, gabions, dug wells, boreholes and small-scale irrigation (activities that can trigger permitting or assessment requirements depending on siting and scale); a presumption of exemption stated in advance sits uneasily with the screening logic described in the same section.

CR17: Please clarify which body is responsible for assessing grant proposals against national technical standards and confirm the correct designation, given that Section G refers to an "NCAC" while the rest of the document

refers to the NLAC, and page 18 assigns AF compliance due diligence to the National Coordinator. Please also clarify how this determination relates to the role assigned to UNDP Country Offices in identifying relevant standards.

CR18: Please clarify that determinations on whether EIA, IEE or SEA thresholds are triggered will be made on the basis of screening each grant-funded activity once designed, rather than presumed at programme level, given that sub-projects are unidentified and that some illustrative activity types may trigger assessment or permitting requirements depending on siting and scale.

Section G sets out a progressive support model to local actors. Compliance is introduced early, through presentations and discussions at the LAP development workshops where potential solutions to climate vulnerabilities are first identified. Technical and policy experts then explain the norms and standards specific to an identified solution, and work with proponents to identify design criteria enabling compliance. Where the proposed solution is technically complex, experts provide follow-on training and accompany the initiative design process. Compliance is embedded in the design itself through milestones and indicators, so that adherence is monitored during implementation rather than assessed only at approval. Local actors are described as learning by doing through this process. Those providing technical assistance to communities in proposal design will themselves receive information and training on national technical standards and on compliance with the Fund's ESP. And where a proposal requires adaptation to meet national standards, a micro-grant of up to USD 2,000 may be awarded to cover the costs of technical experts, workshops or consultations needed to bring the proposal into compliance.

One inconsistency: the passage on page 25 refers to compliance discussions at "CIP development workshops," a term that does not appear elsewhere and is presumably a residual reference to a different programme.

CAR2: Please correct the terminology in Section G, which refers to "NCAC" and to "CIP development workshops," neither of which corresponds to the structures and processes described elsewhere in the proposal. Consistent naming is necessary here because the passage assigns compliance responsibilities and describes the point in the cycle at which capacity support is delivered.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR17: While the assessment of grant proposals against national technical standards is the responsibility of the National Landscape Adaptation Committee ("NCAC" is a typographical error and has been corrected), National Coordinators acting as Secretary to the NLACs will carry out a first due diligence and compliance check with relevant national technical standards when screening the grant proposals received from IP and LC organizations. NCs will, as necessary, guide the organizations to ensure alignment of the proposals with such standards, seeking support from relevant UNDP Country Office experts as needed. The UNDP Country Office is represented on the NLAC and provides another layer of due diligence and quality assurance. This will be reflected in the implementation arrangements section of the full proposal. See also response to CR5 above. See additional text under section II.G clarifying these responsibilities.

Response to CR18: A sentence has been added to section G confirming that determinations on whether EIA, IEE or SEA thresholds are triggered will be made on the basis of screening each grant-funded activity once identified.

One inconsistency: the passage on page 25 refers to compliance discussions at "CIP development workshops," a term that does not appear elsewhere and is presumably a residual reference to a different programme.

Response to CAR2: The terminology has been corrected as requested.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CR17: Cleared on page 26.

Section G is rewritten and now consistent with page 18. National Coordinators, acting as Secretary to the NLACs, carry out first due diligence and compliance checking against relevant national technical standards and the AF ESP and Gender Policy; UNDP Country Office experts provide a second layer; the Country Office, represented on the NLAC, provides a third layer of due diligence and quality assurance; and the NLAC conducts formal review and approval, with power to recommend revisions. The role of Country Offices in identifying relevant standards and relevant authorities to be consulted is retained and now sits coherently within that sequence. The "NCAC" designation is gone from this section.

CR18: Cleared on page 26.

Section G now opens with the statement that determinations on whether EIA, IEE or SEA thresholds are triggered will be made on the basis of screening each grant-funded activity once identified. This is reinforced at page 47, where each grant-funded initiative is confirmed as subject to its own screening in line with the USP guidance. The remaining country-level statements now read as expectations qualified by the screening commitment rather than as programme-level presumptions of exemption. Malaysia's and Mongolia's entries also retain conditional language for cases where thresholds are triggered.

CAR2: Cleared on page 26- 27.

"CIP development workshops" has been corrected: page 27 now reads "LAP development workshops," and the surrounding passage on progressive compliance support is otherwise intact. "NCAC" no longer appears in Section G.

The underlying terminology problem persists elsewhere and remains outstanding; please see CAR1.

Is there duplication of project/programme with other funding sources? Does the programme enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however clarification is needed.

Section H responds thoroughly and the treatment is well above what is typical at concept stage.

The table screens relevant initiatives country by country across all eight countries, identifying AF, GEF, GCF, World Bank, EU, bilateral and multi-donor projects, and states for each the nature of the synergy or the basis of differentiation. The relationship with the GEF Small Grants Programme is the most significant duplication question, given that the programme will use and adapt SGP National Steering Committees to form NLACs and engage SGP National Coordinators for operational support. The proposal addresses this directly.

However, the assurance that the target landscape will be underserved and not directly targeted by current programmes is offered as a criterion but the process for applying it is not described i.e what evidence base the NLAC will use, or what would follow if the most climate-vulnerable landscape in a country turns out to be one where other programmes are already active. In several countries the initiatives listed are numerous, and Pakistan and Solomon Islands in particular show dense coverage. Second, the screening is conducted at the level of programmes rather than geographies. Since landscape selection has not yet occurred, overlap can only be assessed at national level at this stage. This is unavoidable, but it means the duplication assessment will need to be revisited once landscapes are known.

Collaboration across sectors, efficiencies and good practice is addressed and is well supported.

The programme is inherently cross-sectoral in design. The landscape approach integrates water, agriculture, forestry, rangeland, fisheries and coastal management within a single planning frame, and Section F notes that this cross-sectoral character matches multi-sector national development priorities. Complementarity with NIEs is also identified, including capacity building in LLA approaches, the landscape approach, ecosystem services and engagement with IPs. The main gap is that collaboration is described as a design feature and an expectation rather than as an arrangement. With the exception of SGP, no partnership is confirmed. Section J lists the International Land Coalition, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network and CIFOR-ICRAF as tentative institutions to be consulted at fully developed proposal stage. Coordination with other LLA Aggregator MIEs and RIEs is stated as an intention conditional on their being members of NLACs.

CR19: Please clarify how the NLAC will establish that a candidate landscape is underserved and not directly targeted by existing programmes; in particular what evidence base will inform that determination, and how the criterion will be balanced against climate vulnerability where the most vulnerable landscapes coincide with areas of existing programme coverage.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR19: Candidate landscapes will be identified during development of the full proposal. Identification will be based, among other factors, on a thorough analysis of climate vulnerability, presence and capacities of civil society organizations, status of Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups, and existence of other initiatives. Whenever landscapes may coincide with areas with existing initiatives, duplication will be avoided and synergies promoted through a framework for coordination during implementation. This will be expanded in the full proposal.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR19 Not cleared.

Two questions remain open. First, what the NLAC will actually consult in determining that a candidate landscape is not already served; for example national project registries, Designated Authority records, donor coordination fora, or the country-level screening already presented in Section H. Second, and more materially, how the criterion sits against vulnerability where the two conflict. The response clears the clarification but it is also not reflected in the concept. Kindly include the response in the concept.

Does the project/programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons, in particular managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant? Does it contribute to building and institutionalizing local capacities?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however clarification is needed.

Component 3 is dedicated to this function, with a budget of USD 3,887,934 and four outputs covering peer-to-peer learning and exchange, development of knowledge products, presentation of lessons to policy makers, and operationalization of the knowledge management system itself.

The feedback loop is explicit and is the strongest element. Page 13 describes how lessons will be learned across countries, with measurable outputs. Section I describes knowledge being used by IPs and LCs in adaptive management of their own landscapes, and by NLACs in codifying experiential knowledge into policy briefs presented to government and institutional authorities. The system is thus designed to feed back both downward into practice and upward into policy. On traditional and Indigenous knowledge, the treatment is substantive

rather than incidental. NLAC membership includes traditional knowledge institutions.

One issue arises here that the consultations themselves surfaced. The Malaysia consultation with the Biodiversity Management Section of NRES raised Access and Benefit-Sharing in relation to traditional knowledge, equitable benefit-sharing and prevention of biopiracy, and recommended integrating ABS awareness into LLA communication and outreach, including guidance on roles, procedures and compliance requirements. The concept note records this input but does not carry it into the design of Component 3. Given that the program intends to document, codify and disseminate Indigenous knowledge internationally, the terms on which that knowledge is shared is a material design question and not solely a Malaysia issue.

CR20: Please clarify how the program will address ownership of, consent to the documentation and dissemination of, and benefit-sharing in relation to traditional and Indigenous knowledge captured through the Learning and Knowledge Management System, given the intention to disseminate knowledge products nationally, regionally and internationally, and the Access and Benefit-Sharing considerations raised during the Malaysia consultations.

Capacity building is well provided for; institutionalization is less developed. The capacity-building logic is coherent. Component 2 includes a dedicated output on strengthening local organization capacities. Learning costs are budgeted within grant proposals themselves (activity 3.1.3), which is a practical provision. The capacities being built are specific and transferable.

The programme is also clear about the intended institutional endpoint. Page 42 describes LAPs as living planning instruments owned by community institutions and, where relevant, local government, so that planning and resource mobilisation continue cyclically beyond programme funding, and describes IPs and LCs becoming more capable of accessing credit or entering partnerships with outside investors. Page 33 notes codification of knowledge for transmission to government institutions and agencies including NIEs. What is not described is the mechanism by which this endpoint is reached. NLACs are built on existing SGP National Steering Committees, which means the program is strengthening structures with an existing institutional home rather than creating standalone ones; a reasonable design choice, but it also means NLAC continuity is tied to SGP continuity rather than to national systems. The claim on page 16 that LAPs will serve to localize NDCs, NAPs, LDNs, NBSAPs and SDGs is asserted without a described channel.

CR21: Please clarify, to the extent feasible at concept stage, how the local and institutional capacities built through the program are expected to be sustained after closure; in particular whether NLACs are envisaged to acquire standing beyond the program and beyond their SGP National Steering Committee origins, and through what route LAPs would be recognized within sub-national or national planning systems.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR20: Ownership of traditional and Indigenous knowledge captured through the participatory evaluations of grant project and LAP performance, pertaining to all forms of intellectual property (including, but not limited to, trademarks, patents, geographical indications, and/or copyright), will belong to the Indigenous people and Local Communities who generated it. IPs and LCs will identify lessons and other knowledge stemming from implementation of their grant initiatives and will decide whether or not they wish to document it, and/or place it in the public domain. The above will be reflected in the Low Value Grant (LVG) agreements to be signed with the project partners. In accordance with the terms of the Nagoya Protocol, any eventual benefit sharing arrangements pertaining to the knowledge and project results generated, either monetary or non-monetary, will be discussed with the grantee partner organizations and carried out as deemed appropriate by them. Due to page limitation the above will be included in the full proposal.

Capacity building is well provided for; institutionalization is less developed. The capacity-building logic is coherent. Component 2 includes a dedicated output on strengthening local organization capacities. Learning costs are budgeted within grant proposals themselves (activity 3.1.3), which is a practical provision. The capacities being built are specific and transferable. The programme is also clear about the intended institutional endpoint. Page 42 describes LAPs as living planning instruments owned by community institutions and, where relevant, local government, so that planning and resource mobilisation continue cyclically beyond programme funding, and describes IPs and LCs becoming more capable of accessing credit or entering partnerships with outside investors. Page 33 notes codification of knowledge for transmission to government institutions and agencies including NIEs. What is not described is the mechanism by which this endpoint is reached. NLACs are built on existing SGP National Steering Committees, which means the program is strengthening structures with an existing institutional home rather than creating standalone ones; a reasonable design choice, but it also means NLAC continuity is tied to SGP continuity rather than to national systems. The claim on page 16 that LAPs will serve to localize NDCs, NAPs, LDNs, NBSAPs and SDGs is asserted without a described channel.

Response to CR21: NLACs will function over five years as multi-partner institutions with representatives from relevant government agencies and institutions, together with civil society, including representatives from IP and LC organizations, and in close collaboration with relevant government institutions. The experience of working together to enable effective locally led adaptation will establish the relationships and models for more formal institutionalization beyond implementation of the original LAPs. Discussions will take place during implementation to institutionalize the NLACs in close collaboration with national government institutions. The success of the LAPs and lessons learned regarding design, implementation, and governance, will provide the motivation to institutionalize the LAPs themselves as part of the appropriate planning systems. Although the NLACs build on the essential structure of the SGP's National Steering Committee, the NLAC is not dependent on SGP continuity given that NLAC members serve pro bono out of personal or institutional interest, something which is likely to continue on beyond the LAP's duration.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR20 Not cleared.

The page constraint stated in the response is understood, but this cannot rest entirely with the full proposal given the dissemination commitments already made in Component 3. Two sentences would suffice, that ownership of traditional and Indigenous knowledge remains with the IPs and LCs who generated it, that decisions on documentation and dissemination rest with them, and that benefit-sharing will follow the Nagoya Protocol, with the arrangements to be set out in the LVG agreements and elaborated at full proposal. Space could be found by trimming the economies-of-scale paragraph, which currently appears three times (pages 7, 12–13 and 20).

CR21 Not cleared.

The response clears the clarification but is also not included in the concept. Please reflect it briefly, most naturally in Section L on sustainability at page 44, where the institutional endpoint is already described but the route to it is not. Two or three sentences would clear this.

Has the proposal described what consultative process has taken or will take place, and describing the involvement of all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, and including gender considerations? Does the consultative process consider and address gender-based, economic and other inequalities in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however further clarification is needed.

Section J structures the process across two points in time: consultations undertaken during concept and full proposal development, and consultations at the onset of programme implementation as part of LAP scoping and development. Consultations already undertaken are documented for all eight countries, with dates, stakeholders and techniques recorded. The coverage is genuinely broad and includes stakeholder types central to the design: government ministries responsible for climate and environment in most countries; the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in Fiji, responsible for Indigenous culture and lands; Indigenous community representatives directly, including a community representative from Kampung Chang Lama Sungai Gepai in Malaysia and Veddha communities from Pollebadda, Dambana and Rathugala in Sri Lanka including the Wanniyalaetto traditional leader; SGP National Steering Committees in four countries; NGOs and CBOs including PACOS Trust, Save Rivers, the Centre for Orang Asli Concerns and MONLAR; mass organisations in Viet Nam including the Women's and Farmers' Unions; and academia and research institutes. Techniques are identified as bilateral meetings, FGDs, KIIs and household-level engagements, and the Pakistan entry records province-level engagement across Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and the Northern Region on specified dates. Importantly, the consultations report substance rather than endorsement.

However, coverage is uneven. Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam show multiple consultations with distinct stakeholder groups; Mongolia and Solomon Islands each show a single entry, and the Solomon Islands entry gives no specific dates, recording only "throughout May 2026." Two entries carry no date at all: the Biodiversity Management Section of NRES in Malaysia, and the Solomon Islands entry.

Second, the consultations reached organised civil society, government and, in some cases, Indigenous community representatives, but the record does not indicate whether women, youth or persons with disabilities were consulted separately or in dedicated groups. The Mongolia FGD records 17 individuals representing institutional categories without disaggregation. Viet Nam is the clearest exception, recording perspectives from the Women's Union and highlighting vulnerabilities of women and ethnic minority communities.

CR22: Please provide the missing consultation dates for the entries relating to the Biodiversity Management Section of NRES in Malaysia and the Solomon Islands consultations, and indicate whether the consultations undertaken included sex-disaggregated participation or dedicated engagement with women, youth and persons with disabilities, as this bears on the demonstration of compliance with the Fund's Gender Policy.

Section J states that all consultations were gender-responsive and that they demonstrate how meaningful participation and leadership from vulnerable and marginalized groups is encouraged, that consultations prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized, and that gender-responsiveness of LAP development will be highlighted in regional consultations. Consultations at implementation are to be documented in workshop reports, with minutes recording stakeholders consulted, principles of choice, roles, dates, techniques used, and key findings including concerns and next steps.

The Annex 1 synthesis of preliminary country gender analyses substantiates the analytical basis. It identifies three categories of structural barrier with country-level evidence and includes findings directly relevant to consultation design.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR22: The missing consultation date for the Biodiversity Management Section of NRES in Malaysia as well as for the Solomon Islands have now been added. Section II.J has been revised to clarify that

the initial consultative process which took place has been gender-responsive and has included dedicated engagement with women, youth and persons with disabilities, in line with the Fund’s Gender Policy.

Section J states that all consultations were gender-responsive and that they demonstrate how meaningful participation and leadership from vulnerable and marginalized groups is encouraged, that consultations prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized, and that gender-responsiveness of LAP development will be highlighted in regional consultations. Consultations at implementation are to be documented in workshop reports, with minutes recording stakeholders consulted, principles of choice, roles, dates, techniques used, and key findings including concerns and next steps. The Annex 1 synthesis of preliminary country gender analyses substantiates the analytical basis. It identifies three categories of structural barrier with country-level evidence and includes findings directly relevant to consultation design.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR22: Not Cleared.

What is sought in the clarification is evidence rather than assertion. Where the information exists in the consultation records, please reflect it in the table; for example, numbers or proportions of women participants, or a note where a session was held separately with women, youth or persons with disabilities. The Mongolia FGD of 17 participants is the clearest case: disaggregating that figure alone would substantially strengthen the demonstration. If separate sessions were not in fact held in some countries, saying so plainly is preferable to a general claim that the table does not bear out, and can be paired with a commitment to dedicated engagement during the comprehensive consultations at full proposal stage.

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

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes but clarification is needed.

Section K provides coherent adaptation reasoning. It establishes an adaptation rather than development rationale by linking the target populations to climate drivers through IPCC AR6 findings on reduced adaptive capacity and heightened risks of poverty and food insecurity in fragile ecological contexts. The barrier analysis carries the full cost argument. The counterfactual is credible, supporting the claim that the activities would not proceed at scale absent grant financing. The concreteness requirement is met through the illustrative initiative types at pages 9–10 and the aggregation logic whereby individual nature-based solutions combine to produce watershed-scale hydrological effects.

The reasoning justifies the approach but is not connected to the scale of the request. USD 30 million is not derived from any stated basis: landscapes, grant numbers, beneficiaries or hectares. The indication of approximately 16 grant initiatives per country and grant ceilings of USD 75,000 and USD 150,000 is not reconciled with the Component 2 allocation of USD 19,159,458, and country allocation logic is deferred to the fully developed proposal despite having been expected at concept stage. Separately, the indicative 1:1 grantee contribution target at page 41 bears directly on what constitutes the full cost of adaptation, but its status is unstated and it sits uneasily with the identification of limited access to capital as the principal barrier facing the intended grantees.

CR23: Please clarify the basis on which the requested financing of USD 30,000,000 has been derived, indicating the expected scale of delivery (landscapes, grant initiatives, and direct and indirect beneficiaries) and the allocation logic across the eight countries, and clarify the status of the indicative 1:1 grantee contribution target referred to on page 41 in relation to the full cost of adaptation.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CR23: The requested financing was estimated based on UNDP's 35-year experience regarding the allocations, budget expenditures and performance of the different Small Grant Country Programmes in the participating countries, and considering the ambition to upscale resilience-enhancing production and resource management across landscapes for significant impacts. Based on UNDP and SGP's experience implementing grant-making activities in these countries and pending a more detailed analysis to be undertaken during the development of the detailed budget and Programme Results Framework at full proposal stage, preliminary estimates indicate approximately 51,791 direct beneficiaries and 219,014 indirect beneficiaries and 52 grant initiatives awarded per country (416 in total) instead of the 16 initially indicated. The specific landscapes will be identified during the comprehensive consultations to be carried out when designing the fully developed proposal.

The allocation of resources across the eight participating countries is expected to be based on an equal-share approach, complemented, where available, by historical data on the number and value of grants awarded in each country based on UNDP's previous grant-making experience in each country. However, the indicative allocation may be fine-tuned during the development of the detailed budget at full proposal stage, taking into account each country's absorptive capacity, based on UNDP and SGP three decades of experience implementing grant-making activities in these countries.

The reference to an indicative co-financing target of 1:1 is intended only as potential financing above and beyond the AF financing required to achieve the adaptation benefits. The Programme is dimensioned and will be budgeted to ensure that it delivers its outcomes and outputs regardless of the realization of this indicative co-financing target. The grantee contribution is not a requirement for grant proposal eligibility.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR23: Not cleared.

The clarification is partially cleared. Page 19 carries the beneficiary estimates, page 10 the revised figure of approximately 52 grant initiatives per country, and page 4 confirms eight landscapes. The correction from 16 to 52 initiatives resolves the arithmetic tension with the Component 2 allocation. The 1:1 contribution is satisfactorily explained in the response. The response explains: UNDP's experience of allocations, expenditures and performance across SGP Country Programmes in the participating countries, together with the ambition to upscale across landscapes. That is a reasonable account for concept stage, but it appears nowhere in the concept note, which still presents USD 30 million without any stated basis. A sentence in Section K would resolve it. The response to the country allocation logic is given in the response sheet: an equal-share approach, complemented where available by historical data on the number and value of grants awarded in each country, subject to fine-tuning at full proposal against absorptive capacity. Page 4 still defers this entirely. Reflecting the equal-share basis there would clear the clarification, and would also clear the outstanding element of CR2. Please carry into the proposal briefly.

Is the programme aligned with AF's results framework?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: The three AF outcomes selected: Outcome 5, Outcome 2 and Outcome 3, correspond appropriately to the programme's three components. Corresponding AF outputs and output indicators are mostly identified, and grant amounts are distributed across the framework at both levels. However please ensure to align with updated SRF outcomes and outcome/output indicators, including the template format.

CAR3: Please align Part III with the AF Results Framework template as follows: use the correct outcome-level indicators. Template and Guidance is available here: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/alignment-with-adaptation-fund-results-framework-template-and-guidance-dec-2025/> and <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/strategic-results-framework-guidance-2026/>

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CAR3: The alignment table has been revised to reflect the Fund's revised Strategic Results Framework. Grant amounts and project output indicators may be further refined during the development of the full proposal, in which case the alignment table will be updated accordingly.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR3: Not cleared.

The revised table makes significant improvements. However, in the output table, the same Fund output indicator is repeated across several project outputs with a separate grant amount attached to each. The result is that the grant amount is disaggregated by project output rather than by Fund output indicator, which is what the alignment table is for. Please present grant amounts in the alignment table aggregated by Fund outcome and Fund output indicator, so that the AF financing attributable to each SRF result is visible on the face of the table; project outputs mapping to the same Fund output should be consolidated or subtotaled.

Has the sustainability of the programme outcomes been considered when designing the programme, including in the screening of the locally-led small grants projects? Does the project/programme support long-term development of local governance processes, and improve the capacity of local institutions to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions over the long term?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section L presents a coherent sustainability logic resting on three propositions. First, socio-ecological resilience requires a landscape approach owned, driven and led by IPs and LCs through collective planning, management and governance, so that ownership rather than external maintenance sustains outcomes. Second, adoption of resilience-enhancing practices depends on land and resource users recovering their costs through increased income or food security. Third, LAPs are designed as living planning instruments owned by community institutions and, where relevant, local government, so that planning and resource mobilisation continue cyclically beyond programme funding.

The proposal recognises that financial institutions perceive investment risk in financing IPs and LCs given their inexperience with innovative practices, and positions grant funding and learning-by-doing as building the track record and capacity that make communities more capable of accessing credit or entering partnerships with outside investors. Section K adds that NLACs and National Coordinators will connect grantee organisations with potential funders for scaling. This is a plausible exit pathway, though it depends on capacities and relationships that the programme itself must generate.

Sustainability in grant screening is explicitly provided for. The preliminary eligibility criteria at page 6 include a dedicated category on innovation, replicability and sustainability, requiring proposals to demonstrate prospects for replication or scaling up beyond grant duration, and prospects for long-term sustainability including an outline of potential grant and non-grant funding sources after the initial grant ends.

The governance dimension is a genuine strength of the design. The programme creates or strengthens two structures with governance functions: multi-stakeholder landscape platforms and NLACs. Capacity building is delivered through learning-by-doing across the full project cycle, complemented by explicit training, with the capacities acquired being transferable rather than initiative-specific.

However a gap concerns is the institutional route out, as the NLACs are built on existing SGP National Steering Committees, and continuity is tied to the continuity of SGP rather than to national systems. Please see CR21.

A related concerns the grant instrument itself and whether communities have sufficient time to consolidate practices to the point of self-sustaining adoption, particularly for ecosystem restoration measures whose benefits accrue over the medium to long term, given the 24-month grant cap. Please see CR6.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Responses provided directly under CR21 and CR6, respectively.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section L remains the same. Please see CR21, which is not cleared: the response addresses this adequately, but none of it appears in Section L.

Also see CR6, which is not cleared: page 14 states only that the cumulative ceiling "will allow for multiple funding opportunities throughout implementation," which reads as a consequence of the cap rather than as design intent. The response confirms that successive grants to the same organisation are envisaged, subject to performance and available funds, with opportunities recurring across the LAP cycle. Stating this in the text matters here because the 24-month grant cap applies irrespective of measure type, and ecosystem restoration activities of the kind listed at pages 9-10: upstream reforestation, wetland restoration, revegetation of headwaters; accrue benefits over a longer horizon than a single grant cycle. In responding to CR6, it would be helpful to indicate whether successive grants are expected to carry organisations through that period, or

whether such measures are anticipated to reach self-sustaining adoption within one cycle.

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: Yes, an overview is provided, but it requires revision. The guidance is clear that the IE screens against AFs fifteen ESP principles and documents in Section II.K. The proposal presents each entry with a UNDP SES equivalent attached, and concludes that the risk category is "Moderate as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards policy and B as per the AF's Environmental and Social Policy." This creates two problems. The mappings are not exact and presenting two categorisations invites confusion as to which governs.

CAR4: Please complete the checklist in Section M against the fifteen AF ESP principles only, removing the UNDP SES equivalents and the parallel UNDP risk categorisation, so that the screening outcome and the assigned category are recorded solely against the Fund's policy.

- In the third column for each risk categorized as low, medium, or high, please provide a brief justification (1-2 sentences) explaining the risk and its potential impacts, followed by a description on if further management is required and preliminary mitigation measures. At the concept note stage, it is acceptable to provide preliminary mitigation measure. A robust plan is required for the full proposal stage.
- In column 2, please place a check mark if "No further assessment required for compliance" otherwise leave blank. Do not include any text in column 2.

CR24: Two exclusions also warrant reconsideration in light of USP status:

- Principle 8 (Involuntary Resettlement) is excluded on the basis that no physical or economic displacement is expected. The guidance defines involuntary resettlement to include economic displacement through restrictions on land use that lead to loss of access to assets or livelihood sources. The programme envisages community grazing plans establishing grazing corridors and recovery periods for overused land, protection of critical grazing areas, land use planning of micro-watersheds, community mapping, and consensus-based land management rules enforced through peer compliance. Where sub-projects are unidentified, a blanket exclusion at concept stage may be premature.
- Principle 11 (Climate Change) is excluded on the basis that expected activities generate no direct emissions of carbon dioxide, methane or nitrous oxide. The illustrative activity menu includes climate-resilient livestock breeds, supplementary feed production and rotational grazing, all of which involve livestock. A qualitative risk assessment, as the guidance contemplates for non-listed sectors, would be a safer basis than a categorical statement.

Please refer to https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ESP-Guidance_Revised-in-June-2016_Guidance-document-for-Implementing-Entities-on-compliance-with-the-Adaptation-Fund-Environmental-and-Social-Policy.pdf

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CAR4: References to UNDP SES equivalents and the corresponding UNDP risk categorization have been removed from this section. Brief descriptions of the identified risks are included in the third column. While risks' mitigation measures will be comprehensively documented in the Environmental and Social Management Plan to be developed at full proposal stage, preliminary measures have now been included in the third column, as requested. Column 2 has also been cleared of any text.

Response to CR24: Risks related to Principles 8 and 11 have now been acknowledged in this section, due to the presence of USPs.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR24: Cleared.

Both exclusions have been reconsidered and both principles are now triggered.

CR24 (New):

Please fill the table in this format: in the third column titled 'Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance', for each risk assign an assessed risk level (low, medium, high, or no risk) and please include the justification (1-2 sentences) explaining the risk and its potential impacts, followed by a description of the proposed mitigation measures.

Resource Availability

Is the requested project/programme funding within the parameters for regional LLA funding window set by the Board?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: The requested financing is USD 30,000,000.

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: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, the IE fee is at 10%.

CAR5: The EE fee is at 3% which is over the 1.5% cap for IE acting as EE. Please include a justification for going over the cap.

The PFG figure of USD 272,000. The combined consultation total is stated incorrectly. The budget note in the Additional PFG table states that regular plus additional consultation costs will total USD 221,272 across the eight countries. The two line items actually sum to $148,546 + 72,727 = 221,273$. The narrative figure of USD 27,659 per country $\times 8$ gives 221,272, so the per-country figures and the line totals are producing two different results.

CAR6: Please correct the PFG budget notes so that the per-country allocations, the activity line totals and the stated combined consultation cost reconcile exactly.

Response: Not Cleared

IE: Response to CAR5: As communicated during the Pre-Concept Note review, the proposed Programme indeed suggests requesting an exceptional approval of Programme Execution Cost at 3%, in line with item (b) iii of Decision B.38/42, for the reasons mentioned below. A supporting letter dated 3 March 2026, included in the pre-

concept note package endorsed at AFB46, is re-attached to the Concept Note package.

Given the intensive, hands-on nature of this programme (particularly its focus on empowering IPs and LCs to lead the design and implementation of their own initiatives through an expected large number of small grants across multiple countries) UNDP has identified Programme Execution Costs at 3%. While this exceeds the 1.5% cap set by the Adaptation Fund, the request is made on an exceptional basis and is fully aligned with the programme’s operational needs (and similar mechanism proposed under Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme for Locally-led Adaptation approved by the AF Board through Decision B.45/36). The higher execution costs reflect the following:

- i) The need for sustained accompaniment of local actors across eight countries in the Asia and Pacific region requiring frequent field missions, technical, operational and administrative backstopping, and real-time troubleshooting requiring associated execution budget for operational needs;
- ii) Support for administrative and operational transactions at regional and country level as direct project costs for services related to financial, procurement and other transactional services support given the large number of expected grant payment to indigenous peoples and local communities across a wide number of countries.
- iii) The capacity development and participatory knowledge generation approach, which demands intensive engagement, mentoring, and iterative, dialogical learning processes;
- iv) The establishment and operation of a dedicated regional PMU and national level governance mechanisms (NLACs), as well as national programme management units, to facilitate and ensure effective coordination, transparency, and accountability;
- v) The deployment of specialized technical and operational expertise to support the design, implementation, and monitoring of locally-led adaptation initiatives.

This level of investment is essential to ensure the programme’s success and sustainability, particularly in fragile and underserved rural landscapes where institutional capacities are limited and the risks of implementation failure are high.

The PFG form budget notes have been corrected and aligned with the USD 221,273 figure.

Response to CAR6: The PFG form budget notes have been corrected and aligned with the USD 221,273 figure.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR5: Not cleared.

The response would clear it if included in the concept. Kindly include it.

CAR6: Cleared in the PFG.

The PFG budget now reconciles exactly.

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: Cleared

Secretariat: Accreditation Expiration Date is 10 October 2029.



ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL LLA PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and the Pacific

Countries: Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

Thematic Focal Area: Food Security

Type of Implementing Entity: Multilateral Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Executing Entities: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Amount of Financing Requested: USD 30,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request: Yes ☒ No ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: USD 272,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

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

Stage of Submission¹:

- ☒ This proposal has been submitted before including at a different stage (pre-concept)
- ☐ This is the first submission ever of the proposal at any stage

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 3/16/2026

Please note that concept-note proposal documents should not exceed 50 including the annexes.

¹ At the concept note stage only Section I and II are needed.

Project/Programme Background and Context:

On the short term (2020–2040), Asia and the Pacific is projected to face intensified climate variability, as highlighted in the **IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)**². The region is already witnessing more frequent and severe extreme weather events such as heatwaves (e.g. Mongolia, Pakistan), heavy rainfall (e.g. Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Vietnam), and cyclones (e.g. Fiji, Solomon Islands). According to the **IPCC Working Group I** report (2021)³, average temperatures in Asia Pacific have increased by approximately 0.7°C to 1.0°C over the past century, with projections indicating a further rise of 0.5°C to 1.5°C by 2040. These changes are contributing to shortened monsoon seasons, altered rainfall patterns, and increased risk of flash floods and droughts, directly threatening agriculture, water availability, and public health.

Over the longer term (2041–2100), the impact of unmitigated climate change becomes even more severe. Under high-emissions scenarios, average temperatures could rise by 4°C or more by century's end, with **IPCC AR6** warning of substantial increases in the frequency and duration of deadly heatwaves, particularly in low-lying areas like the Indo-Gangetic Plain. Agroecosystems across the region are especially vulnerable under both timeframes. **FAO**⁴ and **IPCC reports** agree that rising temperatures and erratic precipitation are already reducing crop productivity, particularly for rice and wheat. In the short term, this threatens food access and farmer incomes; over the long term, the combination of heat stress, water scarcity, and soil degradation could lead to widespread shifts in cropping zones and the collapse of traditional farming systems if adaptation efforts lag behind. According to the **World Bank**⁵, vulnerable communities, including Indigenous Peoples, women, smallholder farmers, and low-income urban populations, will bear the brunt of climate impacts unless inclusive and robust adaptation strategies are adopted. The fully developed proposal will provide a more detailed description of countries' climate rationale and their respective economic, social, development and environmental context.

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) builds individual and collective agency over defining, prioritizing, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating locally identified climate actions. These actions include ecosystem restoration, climate resilient agricultural production, water resource management, forest management and other practices and innovations. LLA empowers stakeholders to take a primary role in governance and management of critical land and resources. This governance and management role, embodied in multi-stakeholder platforms, provide structured venues for assessing climate risk and uncertainty and equitable adaptation measures as well as for partnership-building, participation, inclusion and sharing of traditional and other knowledge. Although much collective climate action is carried out using local level resources, including cash and voluntary in-kind labor, effective, long-lasting climate adaptation at scale almost certainly requires greater and more flexible volumes of finance, particularly in the context of increasing climate vulnerability in the region.

Project/Programme Objectives:

The Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and Pacific will finance the design and implementation of local **Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs)** comprised of LLA initiatives planned, developed, implemented and coordinated by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs). The Programme will provide local leaders with an adaptable landscape planning and management framework for climate change adaptation; a participatory methodology that will build their capacities for landscape planning, investment, management, and governance; and direct access to grant funding for investment in their landscape adaptation activities.

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1bf2c873-41da-4f5d-879a-2b1adbe76384/content>

⁵ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/262891632949399367/pdf/World-Bank-Group-Climate-Change-Action-Plan-2021-2025-South-Asia-Roadmap.pdf>

Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)
1. Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs)	Landscape Adaptation Programmes, consisting of multiple complementary resilience-enhancing initiatives, identified and prepared by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	<i>Output 1.1:</i> Multi-stakeholder National Landscape Adaptation Committees established <i>Output 1.2:</i> Multi-stakeholder landscape management and governance platforms established <i>Output 1.3:</i> Landscape Adaptation Programmes developed in each participating country <i>Output 1.4:</i> Priority community and landscape level initiatives in the LAPs identified	Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam	3,407,931
2. Demand-driven LLA grants and capacity building support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for locally led climate adaptation solutions	LLA initiatives designed, financed and implemented to meet LAP objectives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in selected landscapes	<i>Output 2.1:</i> LLA initiatives financed and supported <i>Output 2.2:</i> Local organization capacities strengthened for grant project design and implementation		19,159,458
3. Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System	Knowledge from LAPs and landscape planning and management initiatives used to strengthen climate adaptation policies and strategies, as well as for improved adaptive management and stakeholder learning	<i>Output 3.1:</i> Development and implementation of a peer-to-peer learning and exchange programme at national and local levels for upscaling and adaptive management <i>Output 3.2:</i> Development of knowledge products from landscape planning and implementation experience and national, regional and global dissemination <i>Output 3.3:</i> Lessons learned and knowledge presented to influencers and policy makers in broader policy forums <i>Output 3.4:</i> Operationalization of the Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System		3,887,934
6. Project/Programme Execution cost				817,404
7. Total Project/Programme Cost				27,272,727
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity				2,727,273
Amount of Financing Requested				30,000,000

Projected Calendar:

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	October 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	October 2030
Project/Programme Closing	October 2032
Terminal Evaluation	July 2033

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

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

The development of the **Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and Pacific** and its approach is based on UNDP's experience of more than 30 years of direct support to local and indigenous actors for environmental and sustainable development benefits; in particular this proposal builds on the development and implementation of a signature landscape management approach using a highly participatory model developed and refined over the past 20 years^[1] and implemented worldwide since then. Indeed, through the GEF Small Grants Programme and other donor-supported projects, UNDP has over three decades of experience supporting local level CSOs to design and implement sustainable development initiatives that produce global adaptation and socio-ecological benefits (e.g. biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management), now in over 127 countries, and over 20 years of working on climate adaptation including the use of Ecosystem-based Adaptation and community-based adaptation in landscapes across the world. Community-driven initiatives have built stakeholder capacities through learning-by-doing, generated knowledge from participatory analysis of the design and implementation experience, and produced benefits to local incomes, productivity, collective action and empowerment, and positive environmental impacts. It also builds on experience and alignment with the work of UNDP's Climate Promise, which supports more than 120 countries to implement their NDCs and to continue to increase their NDC ambition, as well as in developing ambitious and integrated climate, nature and development plans in alignment with UNDP's Nature Pledge and Climate Promise.

The Programme focuses on three elements critical to the success of locally-led adaptation efforts: capacity for collective action, funding to support implementation of stakeholder-identified adaptation priorities, and access to and generation of knowledge and information. *In the first, Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs)*, multi-stakeholder landscape platforms are established and guided by [National Landscape Adaptation Committees](#) to develop LAPs (which entails consultations, scoping exercise and baseline assessments aimed at identifying the expected outcomes and outputs based on the priorities identified). As a result, the LAPs consist of multiple complementary resilience-enhancing initiatives, identified and prepared by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. This participatory landscape-wide process of learning-by-doing will be assisted by thematic experts in technical dialogue using traditional knowledge and relevant modern approaches to define priorities and potential actions. *In the second component*, local organizations design, finance and implement their initiatives to meet the LAP priorities they have selected. Local IP and LC organizations will select the initiatives they feel comfortable assuming responsibility for. With technical assistance, these organizations will design initiatives for grant funding and proceed to implement them, again building capacities through learning-by-doing. *In the third*, local stakeholders and programme staff assess the performance of their initiatives, identify lessons and best practice for improved adaptive management and innovation and transmit this knowledge to policy makers, with the assistance of a National Landscape Adaptation Committee.

The Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs) will be developed in the first year by local landscape actors organized in locally led (by IPs and LCs) multi-stakeholder landscape management and governance platforms. These groups will, through a process of participatory system inquiry and research, identify and analyze the social, economic and ecological vulnerability to climate change of their production systems and the ecosystem services that sustain them. Resilience-enhancing measures, which are expected to focus almost entirely on nature-based solutions, will be identified by the local groups with assistance from national experts and institutions and prioritized for action. The identified actions or initiatives supporting the LAP outcomes will be reviewed and approved by National Landscape Adaptation Committees for grant funding. **The Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for**

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and Pacific will channel resources directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to enhance the resilience of the critical landscapes where they live and work, while contributing to the nationally determined adaptation targets of their NDCs and NAPs. Pending development of the detailed budget at fully-developed proposal stage, the programme will aim to allocate 60% of the total Programme Cost as grants to IPs and LCs. Similarly, when developing the detailed budget, the fully-developed proposal will include estimated allocation across countries, based on UNDP's past experience delivering small grants in each country.

The Programme's proposed structure consists of three Components, three Outcomes and ten Outputs:

Component 1: Landscape Adaptation Programmes

Outcome 1: Landscape Adaptation Programmes, consisting of multiple complementary resilience-enhancing initiatives, identified and prepared by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

This component will support local stakeholder design, establishment and operationalization of eight *Landscape Adaptation Programmes* – separately in Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam - driven by priorities identified by local IPs and communities to build their socio-ecological resilience to climate change.

Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs) will comprise multiple complementary community and landscape level grant-funded initiatives identified and designed by local organizations, with technical assistance from local experts or others as requested or needed, and coordinated across the selected Landscape by a locally led multi-stakeholder platform to achieve landscape scale socio-ecological resilience benefits. In this regard, a portfolio of grant-funded initiatives in the same landscape will constitute a LAP, which can be coordinated with other grant-funded initiatives in the landscape.

The grant-funded initiatives are expected to consist almost entirely of nature-based solutions. These solutions together comprising each LAP, are intended to produce complementary or synergistic socio-ecological benefits that contribute to an overall increase in resilience to climate change impacts across the landscape. Locally led initiatives are intended to produce direct and indirect medium to long-term impacts on the hydrological cycle, with water access and availability crucial to ecosystem function and economic production (agriculture, pastoralism, etc.). This would mean, in general, that the initiatives would aim to decrease run-off in order to increase water infiltration into the soil profile and aquifer (e.g. through erosion control, agroforestry, improved tillage, sustainable grazing, revegetation, etc.) and improve the efficiency of water use (through improved irrigation methods and systems, including community water management and governance mechanisms). In addition, particularly in pastoral landscapes in Pakistan and Mongolia, communities may develop solutions grounded in traditional knowledge, including pastoral mobility, rotational grazing, and indigenous water management techniques, strengthen tenure security through community mapping and land use planning, community monitoring, and knowledge exchange between Indigenous Peoples and pastoralist communities. Complementary initiatives underway in the landscape with these two objectives will produce aggregate hydrological impacts at the landscape or watershed scale needed to positively influence ecosystem services.

LAP initiatives are therefore anticipated to revolve around nature-based solutions, involving improved water resource management; ecosystem restoration (e.g. revegetation of wetlands, forests); smallholder agro-ecological production; and sustainable grazing and climate resilience-enhancing livestock management. These would be complemented on the landscape by diversification of livelihoods; and community empowerment and governance. These initiatives are locally coordinated across the selected landscape as the constituent elements of the Landscape Adaptation Programme by a multi-stakeholder landscape platform consisting of representatives of IPs and LCs. In Component 2, below, are short descriptions of the kind of concrete initiatives that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities may decide to tackle as part of the LAP development process.

Each Landscape Adaptation Programme is governed nationally by a multi-stakeholder ***National Landscape Adaptation Committee*** (NLAC) that is co-chaired by IP and LC representatives (representing the majority of members) and potentially co-chaired with a government representative. The

NLAC, once formed, provides technical guidance from traditional and conventional sources; strategic planning support; introductions to potential partners such as government agencies and private sector entities and others; and general oversight of the development and implementation of the LAP. The NLAC has a majority non-government membership, which ensures Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities full decision-making power over defining, prioritizing, designing and implementing adaptation actions. NLACs are comprised of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, experts in locally-led adaptation measures (agroecology, sustainable pastoralism, etc.), gender experts, government representatives or delegates, National Implementing Entities wherever applicable, UNDP in its capacity of Implementing Entity, youth organizations, and academic and traditional knowledge institutions and others, as agreed by the NLAC. Conflicts of interest are avoided by signatures of NLAC members of formal of Conflict-of-Interest Statement by all appointed NLAC members. During review of each proposal, NLAC members will be requested to state their relationship to the proponents. The Fully Developed Proposal will expand on the implementation arrangements outlined in the pre-concept note, elaborating on the separation between Programme oversight (implementation) and day-to-day administration (execution), consistent with previous UNDP proposals approved by the AF Board.

Grant-funded initiatives financed through LAPs are identified locally and designed and endorsed for funding by the NLAC. The NLACs are built on existing multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g. the SGP National Steering Committee), incorporating experts, organizations or others to ensure representative membership of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and high-quality technical and strategic advice and inputs to knowledge generation, capacity development, M&E, reviews, etc. UNDP's experience with the Small Grant Programme (SGP) National Steering Committees since 1992 has shown that multi-stakeholder platforms increase transparency and promote accountability on all sides, including among CSOs/CBOs, and government entities, among others.

Each NLAC guides the landscape platforms and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to identify priorities for funding with a participatory methodology used successfully in UNDP's locally led landscape resilience programming with GEF (SGP) and Japanese funding (COMDEKS).

NLACs select the landscape(s) to be targeted and then support a participatory analysis and strategic planning process where local stakeholders identify landscape adaptation outcomes (e.g. improved ecosystem services; enhanced productivity; alternative livelihoods, etc.) and agreed outputs (e.g. hectares under improved agroecological management, hectares of land restored to optimize ecosystem function in light of climate change, etc.). Women's and girls' empowerment is prioritized in recognition of their status as primary stakeholders in landscape management – water, soils, biomass - and their roles in agropastoral production.

The priorities identified by this strategic planning process determine the kinds of activities to be funded by the grants awarded under Component 2. Local stakeholders come together in a landscape workshop for the participatory analysis and strategic planning. Once they have agreed on desired landscape level outcomes, they proceed to identify those outputs needed to achieve the outcomes. These outputs may be relatively general in scope e.g. ecosystem restoration of headwaters, revegetation of grazing lands, improved agricultural practices, etc. With the outputs defined at this level, workshop participants identify activities that they feel their community or group can implement with grant funding and their own sweat equity; these would more specifically focus on concrete targets, indicators, projected impacts, etc., as part of the grant initiative design process. Workshop participants work with the National Coordinator and/or others to design the initiative for submission to the NLAC for review and approval.

NLACs formulate overall eligibility criteria for grants adapted or derived from AF criteria, the eight LLA principles, and the overall programme objectives to produce knowledge, capacity and adaptation impacts (see component 2). These criteria are contextualized locally and may encompass such aspects as potential target grantees (e.g. women smallholders or inclusion of a particular ethnic group), maximum grant amount, or other factors.

Preliminary criteria include:

1. Organization Eligibility

- Must be a landscape-based or landscape-affiliated non-governmental, community-based, Indigenous People or civil society, not-for-profit organization that is formally or non-formally constituted in the target country.
- Should ideally have at least two to three years of relevant experience, with a proven track record in working at local level on environmental, agricultural or sustainability issues;
- Projects already underway or existing do not usually qualify - fresh proposals or upscaling initiatives are preferred or which demonstrate particular strategic value within the framework of the LAP.

2. Thematic Focus & National Alignment

- Grant proposals must address one or more of the Outcomes agreed in the Landscape Adaptation Programme they participated in developing in the LAP workshop;
- Grant proposals must align with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments;
- Grant proposals must demonstrate alignment with and application of the Principles of Locally Led Adaptation.

3. Community Engagement & Inclusion

- Grant proposals must demonstrate strong local community commitment and participation throughout the Landscape Adaptation planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation stages;
- Grant proposals should benefit inclusively the most vulnerable – women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, marginalized groups, and persons with disabilities, with clear gender equity and social inclusion objectives;
- Grant proposals must show potential for enhancing sustainable livelihoods, building capacities, and generating or enhancing income, where possible, for community members;

4. Innovation, Replicability & Sustainability: Grant proposals should demonstrate:

- Innovative approaches, including use of traditional or locally adapted knowledge;
- Prospects for replication or scaling up beyond grant duration;
- Prospects for long-term sustainability, including an outline of potential grant and non-grant funding sources after the initial grant ends.

5. Project Design: grant proposals should demonstrate that they:

- Meet relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc.,
- Contain concrete activities to enhance gender equity and social conclusion;
- Comply with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund;
- Do not duplicate any project/programme funded by other sources;
- Have clear targets and indicators and an agreed M&E plan
- Have a learning and knowledge strategy to assess project performance and capture lessons learned.

6. Budget & Project Duration

- Grant sizes may range up to \$75,000 (regular grants) and to \$150,000 (strategic grants), though individual NLACs may choose to define a lower limit or range after assessing the capacities of organizations in the landscape;
- Project duration should not exceed 24 months, though again this will depend on NLAC assessment of individual project objectives and organizational capacities.

LAP component activities are proposed using any of a variety of innovative methods developed by UNDP, including from SGP National Coordinators in the field. See for example: <https://insightshare.org/resources/insights-into-participatory-video-a-handbook-for-the-field/>. A regional approach to establish locally-led Landscape Adaptation Programmes in multiple countries generates economies of scale in terms of capacity building, knowledge generation and exchange, potential financing and policy dialogue. The regional approach will permit the constituents of the different Landscape Adaptation Programmes to receive similar training materials and participate in regional or sub-regional capacity strengthening events – these events will also provide a venue for peer-to-peer exchange of information, experience and knowledge. The eight LAPs will be linked in a Locally-led Adaptation Community of Practice to share experiences related to their operations, LAP planning and strategies, knowledge generation, participatory methodologies (LAP design, implementation, M&E), and other issues. At the same time, economies of scale may be achieved with multi-country capacity building workshops; provision of technical assistance systemically to similar initiatives across the participating countries; partnership development and advocacy.

This regional community of LAP practitioners will also arrange peer-to-peer exchanges and contribute to a global knowledge management system (see Component 3, below) with lessons learned by local Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the LAPs and other experiences. The knowledge generated in one landscape can be transmitted to the others in the regional programme, helping to strengthen the community of practice, learning and sharing among landscape organizations of all kinds. The knowledge generated will be codified and presented as analyses and inputs from national representatives to different regional or sub-regional policy discussion venues. Finally, as a regional programme, dialogues with potential financiers from public and private sectors will be facilitated given the potential scales of landscape interventions across multiple countries.

There are four Outputs under this Outcome and Component:

Output 1.1: Multi-stakeholder National Landscape Adaptation Committees established (NLACs)

Activities:

- 1.1.1 National Steering Committees discuss and agree NLAC composition
- 1.1.2 UNDP and Global Programme formally establish NLAC
- 1.1.3 NLAC discusses and agrees landscape selection
- 1.1.4 NLAC discusses and agrees grant project eligibility criteria within the global eligibility framework
- 1.1.5 NLAC visits the selected landscape with the National Coordinator to confirm selection

Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder landscape management and governance platforms established

Activities:

- 1.2.1 Conduct awareness raising tour of all landscape communities, as well as government, NGO, academic, religious institutions
- 1.2.2 Organize multi-stakeholder platforms and first meetings
- 1.2.3 Formally establish multi-stakeholder platforms

Output 1.3: Landscape Adaptation Programme developed in each participating country

Activities:

- 1.3.1 Landscape Adaptation Programme formulation workshop in each landscape
- 1.3.2 Local actors discuss and agree Landscape socio-ecological Outcomes
- 1.3.3 Local actors discuss and agree potential outputs to achieve Outcomes
- 1.3.4 LAP workshop agrees on Outcomes and outputs and formalizes LAP

Output 1.4: Priority community and landscape level initiatives in the LAPs identified

Activities:

- 1.4.1 Local actors in their organizations discuss and agree potential solutions to achieve LAP outputs
- 1.4.2 Local organizations discuss and agree potential joint or complementary efforts to achieve

Component 2: Demand-driven LLA grants and capacity building support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for locally-led climate adaptation solutions

Outcome 2: LLA initiatives designed, financed and implemented to meet LAP objectives for improved IP and LC selected landscapes

The aim of this component will be to effectively operationalize the LAPs prepared by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities under component 1 by providing capacity building and financing to the locally led grant-funded initiatives identified through the LAPs. Grant-funded initiatives are expected to focus largely on nature-based solutions (NbS) that build the resilience and productivity of production systems and ecosystem services, with a particular emphasis on those related to hydrological services in catchments and traditional fire management in grasslands and savannah ecosystems. NbS will include development of innovative, cost-effective adaptation approaches to soil, water and plant management that produce multiple ecosystem benefits, for example, agricultural practices like polycultures that build organic matter (and its fertility, structure and water-holding capacity), increase water penetration into the soil profile, reduce erosion, and preserve biodiversity. Specific focus areas for the grants will include adaptation solutions grounded in traditional knowledge and refined through technical dialogues with thematic experts, including pastoral mobility, rotational grazing, and indigenous water management techniques; strengthening tenure security through community mapping and land use planning; capacity building for climate governance, including FPIC processes, safeguards, and community monitoring; knowledge exchange between Indigenous and pastoralist communities, with a focus on intergenerational learning and documentation of traditional climate resilience strategies.

LAPs will focus on optimizing ecosystem function in the chosen landscape, leading to initiatives that are aimed primarily at enhancing and sustaining hydrological provisioning and regulating services, for example, upstream reforestation and/or wetland restoration to reduce runoff and the risk of flooding from extreme weather events. Implementing LAPs generates the resilience impacts of locally led, proven adaptation measures, systems and approaches. To do so, the Programme will build the capacities of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to individually and collectively assess their socio-ecological vulnerability to climate change, identify potential resilience solutions, design and implement a landscape programme of locally-led adaptation initiatives, and evaluate their performance and the performance of their selected solutions to extract lessons, knowledge and inputs for ongoing adaptive management towards sustainability.

Under Component 1 - and as described below - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities participate in a process of identifying landscape outcomes and outputs that frame the concrete activities they will choose to implement with grant funding. As a final part of the LAP development workshop, they are assisted in defining their chosen activities by a National Coordinator and local technical experts, as needed. Under Component 2, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities receive technical assistance to design the corresponding grant initiatives, as well as any capacity building needed to effectively implement them. The designed initiatives are then discussed and analysed with other landscape stakeholders in a process of peer review before submitting them to the NLAC for review and approval for funding. This tight turn-around in a single workshop between LAP development and activity design for grant funding maintains local stakeholder enthusiasm and confidence in LAP implementation and governance; strengthens stakeholder commitment to the agreed outputs for socio-ecological resilience; increases the efficiency of grant disbursement by reducing transactions and logistical and organizational challenges; and builds the community of landscape stakeholders with peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge and experience as well as heightens stakeholder adherence to agreed rules of resource management within the landscape governance framework.

Capacity strengthening of participating Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will be based on technical dialogues between local stakeholders and thematic experts (identified during LAP development, sourced locally from peers, technical institutions, NGOs, etc.), incorporating traditional

knowledge and modern science, as vulnerabilities are assessed and potential solutions identified in a participatory process. For example, pastoralists might identify and propose methods for fire management on grazing lands, whose agroecological foundations would be confirmed in dialogue with local agronomic experts. Ecosystem restoration activities to improve hydrological function in a catchment could be designed based on discussions and agreements about species mixes, NTFP harvesting rates, and land use planning of micro-watersheds. Water-efficient cultivation systems and practices could be identified by local smallholders and tweaked as necessary in dialogue with local experts (for example, the *zai* method of water harvesting).

Once a local stakeholder initiative has been designed, the NLAC reviews and either approves the proposed grant outright or returns it to the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for further development. Given the participatory process, grounded in LAP development and supported by the National Coordinators and technical experts, the eligibility of proposals developed is likely to be very strong. When a proposal is returned to an IP or LC it is accompanied by detailed steps to be carried out to achieve approval and may also include a micro-grant (up to USD 2,000) to cover the costs of technical experts, capacity development workshops, consultations, or other inputs needed to ensure the grant proposal meets the LAP's eligibility criteria.

As mentioned under Component 1, above, the local stakeholder selection of initiatives comprising the LAP is highly contextual and based on vulnerability to emerging climate impacts. During the LAP development workshop, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities discuss in detail the kinds of initiatives needed and then select those that they feel they can design and implement to augment their socio-ecological resilience to climate change. The following represent the kinds of relatively common local initiatives selected by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, based on UNDP's 30 years of experience implementing the GEF-funded Small Grant Programme and climate change adaptation initiatives, including those related to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation.

Improved Ecosystem and Water Resource Management

- *Revegetation and restoration:* Reforestation, wetland restoration, and revegetation of headwaters increase groundwater recharge and soil moisture, improving water availability for smallholders and pastoralists during droughts and variable rainfall.
- *Surface flow barriers:* Gully plugs, check dams, and gabions slow runoff, increasing infiltration and groundwater recharge.
- *Water harvesting systems:* Dug wells, water pans, and check dams store rainwater for dry periods, reducing reliance on distant and unreliable water sources and easing the burden on women and girls.
- *Community-managed water points:* Training communities to maintain boreholes, wells, and solar pumps strengthens long-term water security.
- *Water conservation practices:* Drip irrigation and traditional water management improve efficiency and sustainability.

Sustainable Grazing Management

- *Pasture and rangeland restoration:* Rotational grazing, reseeding native grasses, and protecting critical grazing areas improve soil health, biodiversity, and livestock productivity.
- *Community grazing plans:* Locally developed plans establish grazing corridors and recovery periods for overused land.
- *Land health monitoring:* Participatory mapping and mobile tools help communities track degradation and make informed grazing decisions.

Climate-Resilient Livestock Management

- *Resilient livestock breeds:* Indigenous and drought-tolerant cattle, goats, and camels are better suited to heat and water scarcity.
- *Livestock mobility agreements:* Cross-border agreements enable pastoralists to move herds in response to droughts and floods.
- *Supplementary feed production:* Silage and other feed reserves reduce vulnerability during

dry periods.

Resilient Smallholder Agriculture

- *Agroforestry*: Integrating trees with crops improves soil fertility, moisture retention, and groundwater recharge while increasing yields and incomes.
- *Sustainable cultivation practices*: Cover crops, reduced tillage, contour farming, and terracing enhance soil structure and reduce runoff.
- *Agrobiodiversity and participatory breeding*: Conserving and improving traditional crop varieties strengthens resilience to drought, heat, salinity, pests, and diseases while supporting food security and cultural priorities.

Livelihood Diversification

- *Agro-pastoralism*: Combining livestock with drought-resistant crops such as millet, sorghum, and legumes reduces climate-related risks.
- *Alternative income sources*: Beekeeping, ecotourism, handicrafts, and agro-processing lessen dependence on a single livelihood.

Community Empowerment and Governance

- *Strengthening local institutions*: Support for community-based organizations, producer groups, and women's associations improves resource management and access to finance.
- *Inclusive decision-making*: Grants for women and youth promote more equitable and sustainable adaptation planning.
- *Policy advocacy*: Community organizations can engage governments to secure rights to land, water, credit, and markets, ensuring climate policies reflect local priorities.

Grant project eligibility criteria will be framed by the concreteness mandate of the Adaptation Fund (activities producing visible and tangible results on the ground); adequateness of the proposed activities in light of the climate threats identified; and by the eight Locally-led Adaptation Principles and priorities in the country's national climate strategy; engagement and consultation with IPs; and supportiveness of the DAs. The criteria will be contextualized to adequately reflect local ecological, social and economic circumstances, local stakeholder priorities and strategic considerations. To ensure they are driven by LLA and IP and LC priorities, grant initiative eligibility criteria will be finalized by the NLACs (formed by a majority of IP and LC members) at the start of LAP implementation. When proposals are approved, grant funding is released on a schedule of payments tied to completion of agreed project milestones, in line with the UNDP Low Value Grant modality. The process of project design, submission, review and approval and the first payment can be as little as 2-3 months based on UNDP experience with similar programmes.

Actual amounts awarded as grants will vary according to the total costs of the different initiatives. However, in line with UNDP Low Value Grant modality and experience of UNDP with similar grant-making mechanisms, a maximum grant amount of USD 75,000 will be set per regular grant and a maximum grant amount of USD 150,000 per strategic grant which (i) enable scaling up and replication of tested approaches and tools in multiple locations/communities; and (ii) consolidate efforts of several Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The individual grant amounts may vary (and not go over \$ 75,000) according to LAP objectives, proposed activities and NLAC policies; this may result in higher numbers of grant initiatives. Individual NLACs may wish to establish maximum grant amounts based on a thorough analysis of needs, organizational absorptive capacities and other factors.

There are two Outputs under this Outcome and Component:

Output 2.1: Locally Led Adaptation initiatives financed and supported (approximately 52 grant initiatives per each participating country and landscape according to LAP objectives and proposed activities)

Activities:

- 2.1.1 Local landscape organizations work with National Coordinators to design their grant proposals
- 2.1.2 Grant proposals are socialized for comments and inputs by members of the landscape platforms
- 2.1.3 Finalized grant proposals are submitted to the NLAC for review and approval

2.1.4 NLAC approves proposals for funding

Output 2.2 Local organization capacities strengthened for grant project design and implementation Activities:

2.2.1 Local organizations identify capacity gaps and potential solutions, including training

2.2.2 Local organizations participate in capacity development exercises and training

Component 3: Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System

Outcome 3: Knowledge from LAPs and landscape planning and management initiatives used to strengthen climate adaptation policies and strategies, as well as for improved adaptive management and stakeholder learning

Local stakeholder grantee organizations will be empowered, mobilized and capacitated through technical assistance for generation of evidence-based knowledge and results, facilitation of learning-by-doing and peer-to-peer sharing across landscapes. Each initiative and each LAP will have an agreed monitoring protocol integrating indicators and targets to assess achievement of or progress towards grant project outputs or LAP outcomes. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will identify the indicators and targets and meet periodically during project or programme implementation to assess progress, as well as at the end of project funding. Post project analysis by the IP or/and LC grantee organization will include identification of adaptive management measures to be taken to overcome obstacles, deficiencies or failures potentially affecting future project performance.

The programme will document lessons from the application of Indigenous Peoples knowledge systems and tenure-secure pastoralist adaptation strategies. Knowledge products will include community-led climate indicators, guidelines on customary land tenure recognition, and case studies on Indigenous-led climate governance models. These will be disseminated locally, nationally, and internationally, contributing to policy influence within the UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD processes.

The programme's Learning and Knowledge Management system (LKM) will build on existing UNDP-supported KM systems for local action and climate adaptation, in particular the SGP Knowledge Management system (<https://sgp.undp.org/our-approach-153/knowledge-management.html>). This system, given UNDP's global reach and presence in 170 countries, will contribute to rapid acceleration of the development and adaptation of innovations in consultation with the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). Knowledge management and learning are integral parts of this regional programme. The knowledge obtained from locally-led experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through UNDP's national, regional and global networks of stakeholders and will broaden the UNDP knowledge repositories and be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Targeted knowledge management and communications activities will aim to share lessons and experiences and showcase results of gender mainstreaming, as well as inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Grantee organizations will meet in a participatory process of analysis and discussion to assess implementation progress and identify successes and mistakes based on the agreed targets and indicators they identified in their initiative proposals. This process of learning-by-doing will build their capacities to undertake this kind of evidence-based knowledge generation. The resulting knowledge will be recorded and codified for simple interim implementation information, as well as for a final initiative report. The knowledge resulting from these reports and analyses will be codified and compiled in the LKM, which will integrate learning and knowledge generated at national and local levels as part of Components 1 and 2 and other relevant LAP processes. This knowledge and information will be systematically disseminated or made available through the LKM to local Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, climate adaptation policy makers, national level NGOs, government agencies and institutions, AF National Implementing Entities wherever applicable, and relevant regional institutions and networks.

There are four Outputs under this Outcome and Component:

Output 3.1: Development and implementation of a peer-to-peer learning and exchange programme at national and local levels for upscaling and adaptive management

Activities:

- 3.1.1 Landscape platforms discuss and agree context-specific learning and knowledge generation goals, outcomes and outputs and define relevant grant proposal formats and requirements for M&E and knowledge generation and dissemination;
- 3.1.2 Local organizations identify learning objectives into grant proposals consistent with landscape level learning and knowledge generation goals;
- 3.1.3 Local organizations budget learning costs in grant proposal budgets;
- 3.1.4 Landscape platforms agree on and organize a system of peer-to-peer exchanges among groups and communities across the landscape, as well as with interested communities nationally;
- 3.1.5 Local organizations reflect on project design and implementation experience and produce locally accessible reports and other material for distribution to peer organizations and others.

Output 3.2: Development of knowledge products from landscape planning and implementation experience and national, regional and global dissemination

Activities:

- 3.2.1 Identification by global programme staff in concert with NLACs of recurrent or common themes or priorities among landscape platforms, LAPs and grant initiatives for applied distillation of knowledge and information;
- 3.2.2 Consensus selection and prioritization by NLACs of key topics (e.g. customary land tenure regulation; landscape or resource governance structures; market access issues; community CC indicators and early warning, etc.);
- 3.2.3 Compilation of information and knowledge regarding key topics, production of knowledge products, and development of a dissemination plan;
- 3.2.4 Knowledge products disseminated nationally, regionally and globally and stored on Learning and Knowledge Management system.

Outputs 3.3: Lessons learned and knowledge presented to influencers and policy makers in broader policy forums

Activities:

- 3.3.1 Lessons learned and knowledge from LAP and grant project implementation is reviewed and assessed by NLACs and global programme staff for relevant policy contributions;
- 3.3.2 NLACs identify key experiential knowledge for codification in policy briefs or other instruments;
- 3.3.3 UNDP, NLACs and global programme staff together produce a series of products for specific presentations to governments and regional bodies;
- 3.3.4 NLACs present potential policy inputs to government and institutional authorities and policymakers.

Output 3.4: Operationalization of the Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System

Activities:

- 3.4.1 The worldwide SGP Knowledge Management System is digitally and structurally adapted to host the Learning and Knowledge Management System (LKM) of this regional programme;
- 3.4.2 Standards and protocols for uploading information to the LKM are established;
- 3.4.3 Information and knowledge products from Outputs 3.1-3.3 are uploaded to LKM;
- 3.4.4 NLACs and landscape platforms are facilitated access to LKM.

As outlined in the above description, the Programme presents advantages over individual national initiatives. The common across the eight countries responds to the common necessity of local

stakeholders to exercise their agency and act collectively in managing their landscapes for socio-ecological resilience at scale. The LAP methodological approach aims at building the capacities of local stakeholders to collectively assess their climate risks and vulnerabilities, discuss and analyze potential resilience-enhancing solutions, innovate and test them and assess their performance. The knowledge obtained permits local stakeholders to take adaptive management measures as part of landscape management and governance. While the ecological, socio-economic and climate-risk contexts will be quite different across the eight countries, stakeholder practice of the LAP methodology builds their capacities to continuously adapt to ever changing contextual factors. This practice is empowering based on a reflective exercise of their agency. Empowered local stakeholders are thus committed to learning, producing knowledge, and working together to achieve climate change adaptation at scale.

In addition, the regional Learning and Knowledge Management System (LKMS) is designed to generate cross-country value through three functional mechanisms, each with associated measurable outputs. First, the LKMS will consolidate and systematize lessons emerging from LAP implementation and evaluation across all participating countries, enabling structured methodological learning rather than ad hoc information exchange. Measurable outputs include the number and quality of cross-country comparative analyses produced, the number of methodological guidance notes or updates issued in response to implementation evidence, and the degree to which these feed back into LAP design in subsequent cycles. Second, the LKMS will provide direct technical assistance to local stakeholder organizations in indicator selection, monitoring protocol design, and participatory evaluation functions that go well beyond knowledge dissemination and that build durable self-assessment capacities at the local level. This will be operationalized through a roster of vetted local, national, and regional experts, with measurable outputs including the number of expert deployments, the quality and relevance of technical support provided (assessed through structured feedback), and improvements in the quality and consistency of LAP monitoring and evaluation frameworks over time. Third, the LKMS will enable comparability across LAPs by ensuring methodological consistency in vulnerability analyses, initiative design, and performance indicators. This positions the programme to generate regionally aggregated evidence on what adaptation approaches perform under which conditions, a contribution to the global adaptation knowledge base that no individual national proposal could achieve at equivalent cost or with equivalent analytical depth.

The regional design is primarily justified by the application of a shared methodological framework (the LAP approach) whose consistency across countries enables systematic comparison of both technical outcomes (e.g. performance of specific agroforestry or water management practices) and process quality (e.g. effectiveness of participatory vulnerability assessment methods). This cross-country comparability would not be achievable through parallel national proposals operating under different frameworks, even if individually well-designed. The regional design also generates meaningful economies of scale in several areas: the development and ongoing refinement of shared LAP guidance and training materials; the design and operation of the LKMS platform; the sourcing and deployment of specialized technical expertise across multiple national programmes; and the organization of regional capacity-strengthening events that bring together local practitioners from across countries to exchange experience and consolidate learning. These functions would be significantly more costly if replicated independently at the national level.

The UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, with the Programme Manager based at the UNDP regional office in Bangkok, will ensure proper coordination across the two distinct sub-regional policy contexts, as well as Maldives, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Peer exchange, capacity development and knowledge management may be differentiated sub-regionally based on contextual similarities or specific requests.

B. Describe how the programme would contribute to comprehensive application of all eight of the Principles of LLA together⁶. Furthermore, where relevant, promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, including new approaches, technologies, and mechanisms that are particularly suited to a regional, locally led context.

⁶Principles for locally led adaptation: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iied/52100485111/> ; chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-01/10211IIED.pdf

The programme proposed here integrates the eight LLA principles as the framework guiding the development, implementation and adaptive management of LAPs, as demonstrated in the table below.

LLA Principle	LLA explanation	How the proposal upholds these principles
1. Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level	Giving local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored and how success is evaluated.	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities focusing on enhancing the resilience to climate change impacts on their selected landscapes will have direct access to grant funding to finance locally led adaptation initiatives. They identify, design and implement these initiatives as part of a Landscape Adaptation Program (LAP) that they co-design with other communities in the targeted landscape. The design of the LAPs and its constituent grant-funded initiatives will include indicators and targets that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will use to monitor progress and assess success.
2. Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups	Integrating gender-based, economic and political inequalities that are root causes of vulnerability into the core of adaptation action and encouraging vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.	Integration of gender-based, economic and political inequalities will be integrated into the core of LAPs by: · Ensuring robust representation on National Landscape Adaptation Committees; · Ensuring equitable representation on multi-stakeholder landscape platforms · Including a focus on addressing gender-based, economic and political inequalities in LAP Strategies as well as grant eligibility criteria; · Specifically targeting IPs and marginalized ethnic groups for grant development · Providing direct technical assistance to organized youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced and others to develop proposals for funding.
3. Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily	Supporting long-term development of local governance processes, capacity and institutions through simpler access modalities, as well as longer term and more predictable funding horizons to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions.	Locally led adaptation initiatives exemplify collective action by organized groups, whether formally or non-formally constituted. These groups are represented on the NLAC and multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, where they play decisive roles in program and landscape governance. Outside of these structures, these groups act as informal governance mechanisms as they develop a vision and objectives underpinning their collective voice along with commitment and peer pressure to apply for compliance with strategic objectives. This collectivity is an instrument to advocate policy reforms and new programs. Only as an organized group or network will longer term and more predictable funding be possible, whether by private investors, donors or government. With their participation and ownership of the LAPs and engagement with financial backers, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities build their capacities through learning-by-doing and can continually propose adaptations to landscape and programme governance, including simpler access modalities. The approach proposed here will provide predictable funding to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that can be accessed more easily and more quickly building on and complementing initiatives identified in Part II.I of the proposal. Cumulative financial support capped at USD 75,000 per organization, or up to USD 150,000 for strategic grants, will allow for multiple funding opportunities throughout implementation.
4. Investing in local capabilities to	Improving the capabilities of local institutions to ensure	The program proposed here invests in building the capacities of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to identify their vulnerabilities to climate risks and uncertainties and from there, to

leave an institutional legacy	they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, generate solutions and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding	generate and innovate solutions, implement them and then analyse their performance for subsequent lessons to be applied in an ongoing process of adaptive management. IP and LC grant proposals incorporate capacity development both in a learning-by-doing mode, as well as through explicit training aimed at achieving grant project objectives. The strengthening of local capabilities is both purposeful – e.g. technical workshops, training – and organic in that the informal interactions and exchanges between Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the landscape and with local government institutions create and sustain a culture of climate adaptation awareness. Over the long-term, this network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in a landscape strengthens relationships with local governments, develops partnerships with entrepreneurs and local businesses, as well as NGOs, and advocates policy reforms.
5. Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty	Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, traditional, Indigenous, generational and scientific knowledge that can enable resilience under a range of future climate scenarios.	Stakeholder development and implementation of locally led adaptation initiatives exemplify collective action by organized groups, whether formally or non-formally constituted. These groups' grant proposals embrace local, traditional, Indigenous, generational and scientific knowledge in proposal design and implementation. Multi-stakeholder landscape platforms and the NLAC – both with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities representatives - will also assess the logic rationale for their proposals and refer proponents to knowledge sources both individually or in combinations of traditional, conventional, generational, etc.
6. Flexible programming and learning	Enabling adaptive management to address the inherent uncertainty in adaptation, especially through robust monitoring and learning systems and flexible finance and programming.	Each grant proposal is aimed at producing three fundamental things: adaptation impacts, strengthened individual and organizational capacities, and knowledge stemming from the experience of design and implementation. Each proposal identifies targets and indicators for each of these foundational elements, which are monitored and assessed to determine progress, obstacles, failures and successes. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities practice adaptive management by using this information to identify lessons and, using these lessons, to plan subsequent phases of the implemented initiative.
7. Ensuring transparency and accountability	Making processes of financing, designing and delivering programs more transparent and accountable downward to local stakeholders.	The processes of locally led identification, design, implementation and evaluation of LAPs and their constituent initiatives follow a participatory method that ensures transparency and enhances local leadership and accountability. Collective action by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities bolsters compliance by their members with group rules and landscape strategies and objectives. The NLAC also monitors the financing, designing and delivering of the LAPs and reports to UNDP on their findings.
8. Collaborative action and investment	Collaboration across sectors, initiatives and levels to ensure that different initiatives and different sources of funding (humanitarian assistance, development, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds, etc.) support each other, and their activities avoid duplication to enhance efficiencies and good	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' networks at landscape level are positioned to collaborate with different programs and projects funded from other sources that are active in their landscapes. The multi-stakeholder landscape platforms and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities networks are best positioned to ensure that their activities avoid duplication, generate synergies, and socialize and use best practice to enhance efficiency. This will become more effective as Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their networks grow and mature with time through learning-by-doing at individual, organizational and network levels and participating in landscape governance. The multi-stakeholder NLAC will bring information and knowledge to local participating institutions and improving cross-sectoral dialogue, understanding and coordination, as well

	practice.	as assisting in partnership development and the pursuit of further financing.
--	-----------	---

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

The ***Programme for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Locally led Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific*** will provide direct access to grant funding to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in a landscape selected by a multi-stakeholder **National Landscape Adaptation Committee (NLAC)**. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will establish landscape platforms to design and implement **Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs)** guided by [National Landscape Adaptation Committees to](#) develop the LAPs (which entails consultations, scoping exercise and baseline assessments aimed at identifying the expected outcomes and outputs based on the priorities identified). As a result, the LAPs will consist of locally led priorities and related initiatives planned, developed and coordinated by them within an agreed participatory landscape planning and management framework. These initiatives can be readily linked to domestic finance that aligns with local climate adaptation priorities as well as larger national and regional financing bodies such as AF National Implementing Entities, wherever applicable. In addition, these LAPs will serve to localize the NDCs, LDNs, NBSAPs and SDGs and other relevant national development plans, linking local initiatives to national priorities. The identification and design of locally led small grant proposals is the last step of the participatory LAP development process, as explained below.

A cohort of participating countries has been proposed based on a series of criteria, including UNDP Country Office experience with localized grant programmes (including strong experience with grant-making mechanisms and use of the Low Value Grant modality); a country's climate-related policies, plans and strategies (NDC, NAP), country support to or acceptance of civil society activities, etc.

Each participating country will establish a National Landscape Adaptation Committee, which will provide technical guidance; strategic planning support; introductions to potential financiers, government agencies and private sector entities and others; and general oversight of the development and implementation of a country's LAP. Each NLAC will include permanent membership by the relevant government representative and UNDP as institutional members, with majority membership by IP and LC representatives. Overall, it will be comprised of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; at least one government representative; a representative of UNDP; a representative from the National Implementing Entity whenever pertinent and possible; and, as agreed by the NLAC and UNDP, experts in locally led adaptation, gender, and other locally relevant topics; local entrepreneurs (where relevant), representatives of smallholder associations, pastoralist organizations, academic and expert institutions and others. The NLAC will be served by a National Coordinator who will manage the LAP cycle, liaising between the regional programme and the NLAC, as well as between the NLAC, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and other partners in the landscapes. The NC will act as secretary to the NLAC. The NLAC will review and approve the LAP development process (described below) coordinated by the National Coordinator, including adapting and/or developing grant project selection criteria as well as proposals for funding and pursuing potential complementarity or alignment with the Country Programme Strategy. Through their role in the NLACs, representatives of the National Implementing Entities will be strongly involved in the programme, including in the sourcing and screening of the locally led small grant proposals.

NLACs will be built on existing multi-stakeholder platforms where possible and strengthen them, as needed. The NLAC will enhance alignment and coordination of climate policies, plans and implementation across different levels of government, leveraging the potential of each respective level through collective efforts and promoting top-down and bottom-up information exchange.^[2] Top down/bottom up vertical integration efforts together will support LAPs over time to address more complex adaptation and mitigation challenges with financial support, technical guidance, advice or expertise from the national level (and other stakeholders including the private sector, academia and civil society).

Landscape Adaptation Programme – step-wise development and implementation process

1. Landscape selection: consultations, multi-stakeholder platform

The local landscape⁷ to be considered for the programme is identified and defined by the NLAC in concert with its government representative, building on the NDC and other relevant studies and policy documents. NLAC members, assisted by the National Coordinator, consult representatives of IPs and LC organizations (smallholder associations, pastoralist groups, et al.), national and local agencies and NGOs, donor representatives, and potential private sector partners to inform them of possible LAP development, discuss their inputs or concerns and gauge their interest in supporting a locally led LAP process of participatory design and implementation. Landscape selection is confirmed through dialogues with and among Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and with national or subnational authorities based on analysis of climate vulnerability and potential longer-term socio-ecological impacts. The climatic and socio-ecological vulnerability of each landscape will be identified based on an initial review of existing publications, studies and other material, and ground-truthed and refined through field visits and in-depth consultations with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their organizations. If necessary, a rapid vulnerability assessment will be made by local experts as a first step towards landscape selection. While landscapes may be quite varied across the participating countries - e.g. grassland ecosystems, lacustrine watersheds, semi-arid mosaic landscapes – the proposed methodology for developing LAPs can be applied under any socioecological circumstances as long as it is locally driven, participatory and systemically oriented. The above landscape selection process is expected to be undertaken during the development of the fully developed proposal.

After consultations endorse landscape selection, the **National Coordinator** meets directly with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities living in the potential landscape to confirm their interest in participating in and driving a locally led, grant-financed Landscape Adaptation Programme (LAP). Development of the LAP starts by bringing together local landscape stakeholders to establish a **landscape level multi-stakeholder platform** (or builds on an existing structure) consisting of representatives of local government, Indigenous Peoples and Local Community organizations with an emphasis on inclusion of the most vulnerable populations under a Leave No One Behind policy. This platform – with a majority of civil society membership - will be responsible for planning, development and management of the LAP, with technical support from government, NGOs, IPs and other sources of expertise. These multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms are responsible for analysis and decision making, supported by technical assistance, financing and knowledge from traditional sources and appropriate experts and institutions.

2. Landscape Adaptation Programme development: workshop, participatory analysis and design

Once IP and LC participation in the landscape platform is confirmed, a landscape level workshop involving all resident Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is carried out. Development of the LAP in this workshop follows a participatory process of analysis (climate change impacts; socio-ecological vulnerability; socio-economic mapping, financial resources, etc.), identification of trends in vulnerability (increase, decrease, steady state), and delineation of causal pathways.

Workshop participants determine desired **landscape level outcomes** for ecosystem services; sustainable production; alternative livelihoods (where relevant); and governance, management, and financing to grow and sustain investments in landscape ecosystem and community resilience. Outcomes may be relatively broad e.g. increased water availability for irrigation or increased and more stable agricultural yields. Under each outcome, workshop participants identify and prioritize **outputs to achieve the outcomes** – for example, for increased water availability, activities might include headwaters forest

⁷ For purposes of this funding proposal, landscapes are defined as discrete eco-geographic areas that people who live in them have modified through the crops they grow, the animals they raise or herd, the structures they build or use i.e. a cultural or socio-ecological landscape. These landscapes are areas modified or influenced by human activity; as such, they can include rural or urban landscapes whose constituent boundaries are defined by their inhabitants, ecosystem function and services (particularly hydrological systems - watersheds), political divisions, ethnic or Indigenous Peoples' territories, etc. For this Regional Programme, landscapes will be selected through dialogues among Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and with national or subnational authorities, where qualifying/exclusionary criteria will be part of the selection process

restoration; wetlands restoration and management; more efficient irrigation methods, etc. With each output the corresponding **indicators and targets** will be established for periodic review and assessment (M&E) during and after LAP implementation.

The multi-stakeholder platform identifies the suite of investments needed to achieve the socio-ecological resilience outcomes identified by the landscape's Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, based on the qualifying/exclusionary criteria developed during LAP preparation. The platform organizes them strategically with, for example, grants to de-risk follow-on investments in irrigation infrastructure; or to farmers' associations for resilience-enhancing agricultural training and inputs. As part of this exercise, potential external and internal (to the landscape) partners are identified, consulted and engaged. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are then positioned to discuss these locally identified investments and, where appropriate, for grant proposal preparation by participating with the Programme assistance.

3. Locally led small grant proposals: sourcing and selection

With the LAP outcomes and outputs providing the locally identified framework for resilience-enhancing action, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities can then decide which of the outcomes and outputs they wish to focus on and support with grant financing. The National Coordinator will work with interested Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the workshop to develop their priority ideas and draft proposals aimed at producing interlinked results under three broad categories: adaptation/resilience impacts, individual and organizational capacities, and evidence-based knowledge.

The NC assists Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in technical development of proposals and ensures that the IP and LC proposals fulfil the criteria required by the AF. National Coordinators acting as Secretaries to the NLACs will carry out a first due diligence and compliance check with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, national technical standards, non duplication with other projects and programmes, alignment with national climate adaptation plans and strategies, among others, when screening the grant proposals received from IPs and LCs organizations. NCs will, as necessary, guide the organizations to ensure alignment of the proposals with such these policies and standards, seeking support from relevant UNDP Country Office experts as needed, as a second layer of due diligence. Those grant proposals deemed aligned and consistent with the policies and ready for submission will be presented to the NLACs, the main decision-making bodies in each country, for formal review and approval. The UNDP Country Office is represented on the NLAC and provides another layer of due diligence and quality assurance. This will be reflected in the implementation arrangements section of the full proposal, detailing actors, instruments, periodicity, indicators, and data management and reporting. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities finalize their proposals and submit them to the NLAC. Each IP and LC proposal will also include a participatory M&E plan with indicators and targets, as well as a schedule of reviews of project progress, including a final participatory assessment of what worked and did not work in terms of the expected results. This knowledge will be codified in a final report for dissemination to NLAC members, to partner Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the landscape, in the country and in the region, and to relevant NGOs and Ministries, as well as to the Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System of UNDP. The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will use this knowledge and information to adapt their landscape planning and management to follow-on efforts.

4. Implementation of small grant proposals

With approval of their proposals, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities proceed to the formulation and implementation of annual work plans for the different funded initiatives, punctuated by periodic assessments of progress and application of adaptive measures, where needed. Grant funding is accessed by different Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for their different initiatives and disbursed against a schedule of initiative-specific milestones.

The multi-stakeholder landscape platform will meet periodically to assess progress on implementation of the Landscape Adaptation Programme overall and to make adaptive management decisions based on lessons learned, new information, evolving capacities, innovations or other factors. The LAPs will be

monitored and evaluated using SMART indicators identified by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms during LAP formulation.

LAP implementation is supported by the National Coordinator, who supports the local NLAC by practicing due diligence at platform meetings and for all activities; working with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to overcome obstacles to efficient implementation; reporting on implementation progress of the initiatives and the LAP, identifying potential local partners for marketing; and other tasks.

Based on UNDP and SGP's experience implementing grant-making activities in these countries and pending a more detailed analysis to be undertaken during the development of the Programme Results Framework at full proposal stage, preliminary estimates indicate approximately 51,791 direct beneficiaries and 219,014 indirect beneficiaries.

D. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social, and environmental benefits.

The LAP programming methodology and framework is aimed directly at enhancing socio-ecological resilience from coordinated locally led activities that improve or sustain ecosystem services, agricultural and other production, and alternative livelihoods, as well as governance, management and financing capacities and mechanisms. Locally identified grant proposals will highlight economic, social and environmental benefits that will be quantified, whenever possible. Grant project eligibility criteria contextualized for each LAP will include references to the equitable distribution of benefits to vulnerable communities, households and individuals.

The LAPs will focus on the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including marginalized/minority groups and their empowerment through design and implementation of initiatives of their choosing. This will ensure that benefits specific to their needs and circumstances are considered and that risks of marginalization are negligible.

Benefits to LAP participant Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities – based on UNDP's three decades of support to local sustainable development efforts through its SGP programme – will fall within three broad categories: economic, social and environmental. These benefits interlock to produce the ultimate benefit - socio-ecological landscape resilience to climate change impacts:

Environmental benefits from ecosystem restoration initiatives and ecologically sustainable production systems - e.g. improved ecosystem function leading to regulatory and provisioning services that increase water accessibility and availability as well as flood prevention and mitigation, biodiversity maintenance and enhancement, pollination, and soil quality – underpin:

Economic benefits (greater food security and incomes from increased agricultural and pastoral yields and sustainability) from greater access to and increased availability of water in soils, streams and aquifers, improved flood prevention and mitigation, improved soil fertility and structure, increased and more diverse pollinator populations, etc., which improve:

Social benefits from inclusive stakeholder participation on the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms during analysis of climate vulnerability; formulation of the LAPs; identification, design and implementation of LAP constituent initiatives; monitoring and knowledge generation from learning by doing and, finally, the empowerment from exercise of their agency that will encourage them to continue with innovations to and adaptive management of resilience-enhancing activities. Local Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will also benefit from increased capacities for planning and project management, advocacy, organizational development, community engagement and adaptive management.

Given the profoundly participatory methodology of LAP development - in which Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the landscape themselves identify LAP outcomes and activities and then are assisted in developing their locally-led initiatives to achieve activities and outcomes – equitable distribution of benefits will be a constant guiding feature and criteria of all grant-funded initiatives. Each proposal will be reviewed by the NLAC for equity in benefits accruing to individuals, households, organizations and communities.

Preliminary country-specific gender analyses have been carried out, in compliance with the Gender Policy. A synthesis of its main findings is presented as annex 1 of this Concept Note.

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

The proposed programme is intrinsically more cost-effective than any conventional alternative since it provides financing directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to carry out resilience enhancing initiatives. By providing funding directly, the programme reduces institutional, administrative and operational costs associated with established top-down programmes that aim at motivating change to the behaviour of local stakeholders.

A regional approach to establish locally-led Landscape Adaptation Programmes in multiple countries generates economies of scale in terms of capacity building, knowledge generation and exchange, potential financing and policy dialogue. The regional approach will permit the constituents of the different Landscape Adaptation Programmes to receive similar training materials and participate in regional or sub-regional capacity strengthening events – these events will also provide a venue for peer-to-peer exchange of information, experience and knowledge. The eight LAPs will be linked in a Locally-led Adaptation Community of Practice to share experiences related to their operations, LAP planning and strategies, knowledge generation, participatory methodologies (LAP design, implementation, M&E), and other issues. At the same time, economies of scale may be achieved with multi-country capacity building workshops; provision of technical assistance systemically to similar initiatives across the participating countries; partnership development and advocacy. This regional community of LAP practitioners will also arrange peer-to-peer exchanges and contribute to a global knowledge management system (see Component 3, below) with lessons learned by local Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the LAPs and other experiences. The knowledge generated in one landscape can be transmitted to the others in the regional programme, helping to strengthen the community of practice, learning and sharing among landscape organizations of all kinds. The knowledge generated will be codified and presented as analyses and inputs from national representatives to different regional or sub-regional policy discussion venues. Finally, as a regional programme, dialogues with potential financiers from public and private sectors will be facilitated given the potential scales of landscape interventions across multiple countries.

Regional support to Landscape Adaptation Programmes will support cost-effectiveness primarily in delivering technical guidance (methodologies, tools, innovations) to NLACs and NCs; transmitting knowledge and information to NLACs and NCs; and providing a communications and knowledge generation system and platform for peer-to-peer exchanges of experience, lessons, expertise, traditional knowledge, etc. A demonstration of the programme cost-effectiveness by component is provided in the table below.

Programme component	Alternative/Conventional approaches	Programme approach
Component 1. Landscape Adaptation Programmes, consisting of multiple resilience-enhancing initiatives, prepared by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	Conventional landscape management approaches are typically designed by external actors—sectoral agencies, experts, and academics—rather than by those who live in the landscape. Plans are often developed in detail before any consultation with local stakeholders. These consultations tend to be superficial, with local participation limited to reviewing or approving draft plans. When government agencies or contractors implement the plans, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities may be engaged only as subcontracted labor, with little role in field-level decision-making. This weakens local ownership and responsibility, resulting in limited commitment to sustaining project	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities seeking to strengthen climate resilience in their landscapes will have direct access to grant funding for locally led adaptation initiatives. They will identify, design, and implement these initiatives through a Landscape Adaptation Program (LAP) co-developed with other communities in the target landscape. The LAP and its initiatives will include indicators and targets that communities will use to monitor progress and assess results. Under this locally led adaptation approach, more funding reaches communities than under conventional models. Local stakeholders lead

	outcomes and reduced capacity to identify and respond to adaptive management needs. In top-down approaches, funding passes through multiple levels of government—national, district, and local—before reaching communities. Much of the budget is used to build institutional capacity at these levels, leaving less funding for ground-level action. The resources that do reach communities are often used to pay local stakeholders to implement initiatives designed by others, rather than to support their own priorities and leadership.	landscape planning and management with targeted technical support, strengthening ownership, agency, and responsibility for implementation and long-term sustainability. A regional approach will provide National Landscape Advisory Committees (NLACs) and National Coordinators (NCs) with consistent technical and operational tools to support their engagement with communities.
Component 2. IP and LC stakeholder capacities built and LLA initiatives designed, financed and implemented to meet LAP objectives for improved climate resilience of IP and LC selected landscapes	Conventional programmes or projects do not provide local stakeholders with direct access to grant funding for initiatives they design. Landscape activities are designed by sectoral agencies or experts, and local stakeholders are seen as contracted implementors with little agency to adapt implementation to on-the-ground conditions. The conventional approach relies on funding channeled through administrative and operational agencies. Less funding arrives at ground level as a result and, given the weak ownership of programme activities at local level, what does arrive suffers from decreased enthusiasm and more inefficient implementation.	The program proposed here invests in building the capacities of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to identify their vulnerabilities to climate risks and uncertainties and from there, to generate and innovate solutions, implement them and then analyze their performance for subsequent lessons to be applied in an ongoing process of adaptive management. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities grant proposals incorporate capacity development both in a learning-by-doing mode, as well as through explicit training aimed at achieving grant project objectives.
Component 3. Co-production of knowledge by Indigenous practitioners and trained scientists for improved adaptive management and stakeholder learning	Knowledge generated through project implementation is often expert-driven and aimed primarily at agencies and funders, rather than serving as a practical tool for local stakeholders' adaptive management. Once codified, it is frequently presented in formats that are inaccessible to communities. Knowledge from country-specific projects may be useful nationally, but it is rarely shared with landscape stakeholders in other countries in accessible forms. Without a central mechanism to compile, translate, and disseminate lessons, each country must manage knowledge sharing independently. This makes knowledge management more costly, less effective, and more vulnerable to breakdowns in transmission.	Because resilience-building adaptation to climate change is an ongoing process rather than a one-time effort, locally relevant knowledge is a core priority of locally led adaptation (LLA). The development and implementation of adaptation initiatives by organized community groups—formal or informal—draw on local, traditional, Indigenous, generational, and scientific knowledge. Multi-stakeholder landscape platforms and the National Landscape Adaptation Committee (NLAC), which include Indigenous Peoples and other representatives, will assess proposal logic and connect proponents to appropriate knowledge sources. A Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System will coordinate this process by ensuring that all Landscape Adaptation Programs (LAPs) and their constituent initiatives use common evaluation and knowledge-generation protocols. Findings will be codified in accessible formats for local stakeholders across all participating countries. Drawing on participatory evaluations, the system will synthesize key lessons and their implications for national and regional climate policy.

More conventional programmes can be less effective on the ground than a programme of locally led initiatives, because while Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities may be consulted, they are rarely involved in the identification of desired outcomes and activities or decision making in the design of local level projects. These constraints on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities cripple commitment and ownership, reducing the potential for robust impacts and sustainability.

The proposed programme will be executed building upon lessons learned from the UNDP-implemented GEF-supported Small Grants Programme which, as stated in multiple independent evaluations^{8[1]}, is highly cost effective in comparison to similar on-granting programmes implemented by international NGOs or multilateral institutions.

Direct access to funding for locally developed and implemented initiatives within a framework of a locally led Landscape Adaptation Programme will increase the ownership by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of LAP outcomes. The methodology of participatory vulnerability analysis, identification of outcomes and activities, capacity strengthening from learning-by-doing and the generation of knowledge from reflecting on implementation performance will all contribute to ownership, commitment and the building of a landscape community of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with vision and the capacity for adaptive management. These are the foundation for sustainability of local level adaptation efforts.

F. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national, sub-national and local sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist. If applicable, please refer to relevant regional plans and strategies where they exist.

At country and landscape level: in addition to the relevant strategies and plans preliminarily identified at design stage in each country (see table below), grant proposal eligibility criteria for IP and LC initiatives to be reviewed by the NLAC will also include references to consistency with national, sub-national and/or local sustainable development strategies, plans and programmes, as well as to potential support to any ongoing efforts to mainstream resilience-enhancing measures into local development or social justice efforts that reflect local priorities. Providers of technical assistance to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the design of proposals will receive information and training on the need to ensure that the IPs' and LCs' concepts and proposals are consistent with and supportive of the most relevant development strategies and plans. These proposals will be submitted to the NLAC through the National Coordinator who will execute due diligence in reviewing the submitted proposals for compliance with AF requirements, as described under Component 2 of this document. In their review of the grant proposals, the NLAC will identify and analyse the consistency of IP and LC grant proposals with national, sub-national and/or local development strategies and, if needed, recommend adjustments to the proposals to achieve consistency.

At regional level: as demonstrated in the below table, the purpose, scope and objectives of this regional programme are broadly consistent with the goals and elements of a variety of emerging sub-regional frameworks for climate change programmes. These sub-regional frameworks focus on strengthening resilience, adapting to climate impacts, and exploring mitigation opportunities. They prioritize a harmonized approach, focusing on both adaptation and mitigation, and also emphasize the need for equity and fairness in climate action, acknowledging the historical responsibility of industrialized nations for greenhouse gas emissions. These frameworks support or build on a longer list of sub-regional investment and technical assistance programme.

Relevant strategies and plans	Programme consistency with the plans and strategies
<i>At regional level</i>	

⁸ Please see https://www.gefio.org/content/search?search_api_fulltext=SGP for Joint Evaluations (2008, 2015, 2021) of the Small Grants Programme (SGP)

ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030: Regional roadmap for addressing climate change up to 2030, strengthening finance, technology, and capacity building to enhance synergies between adaptation and mitigation.	The Programme's objective of socio-ecological landscape resilience is consistent with this plan, particularly regarding overcoming barriers to finance and technology access, and capacity building to strengthen adaptation-mitigation synergies.
ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN): Platform for climate-resilient agriculture and forestry across ASEAN Member States; drives climate-smart agriculture, policy harmonization, and technical exchange, with a focus on smallholders and extension systems.	The Programme supports LAP development to enhance food security through sustainable agriculture and ecosystem restoration. It will: i) strengthen regional cooperation on climate resilience; ii) promote inclusive, evidence-based climate action through multi-stakeholder engagement; and iii) expand access to grant finance and innovative funding mechanisms.
ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework & Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security: Aims to ensure long-term food security and improve farmer livelihoods through information exchange, technology transfer, and a regional network for forecasting and monitoring food security.	The Programme's support for sustainable agriculture production and landscape restoration is consistent with AIFS objectives, particularly on sustaining and increasing food production, reducing post-harvest losses, and promoting access to agricultural inputs.
Pacific Islands Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP): Integrates climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development with emphasis on community-based and ecosystem-based approaches. Goals cover strengthened adaptation and risk reduction integration, low-carbon development, and improved disaster preparedness.	The Programme is fully aligned with FRDP principles on cross-country partnerships and lesson sharing; prioritizing the most vulnerable including women and youth; gender-equitable participation; ecosystem-based resilience; cultural and traditional knowledge; and open access to reliable information.
At national level	
<u>Fiji</u>	
National Development Plan 2025–2029 & Vision 2050: Vision 2050 sets overarching goals for sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient growth, while the NDP 2025–2029 operationalizes these with sectoral priorities, socio-economic targets, and policy interventions.	The Programme's landscape-level management of forests, watersheds, and coastal ecosystems supports sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity — core NDP and Vision 2050 objectives. Its cross-sectoral approach (forestry, agriculture, water, coastal zones) matches the NDP's multi-sector development priorities.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP): Roadmap for reducing climate risks and enhancing resilience across vulnerable sectors and communities, through participatory planning, institutional capacity strengthening, and climate finance access.	The Programme's community-led adaptation model and NbS interventions (mangrove restoration, agroforestry, watershed management) are explicitly recognized NAP measures. Landscape-level management enhances resilience to cyclones, floods, and sea-level rise, consistent with NAP objectives.
National Climate Change Policy 2018–2030: Strategic framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation, setting national priorities for emission reductions, ecosystem protection, and climate-informed development.	The Programme's NbS deliver carbon sequestration and biodiversity co-benefits while enhancing resilience. Landscape-scale ecosystem protection and stakeholder engagement align with the policy's integrated climate governance objectives.
NDC 3.0: Outlines mitigation targets and adaptation priorities across energy, forestry, agriculture, and water, emphasizing climate-resilient development, locally led adaptation, and alignment with national plans.	The Programme is consistent with the NDC by: empowering local communities (LLA principle); managing ecosystems at landscape scale; delivering co-benefits across climate resilience, biodiversity, livelihoods, and carbon sequestration; and aligning with national strategies on adaptation, mitigation, and participatory governance.
<u>Malaysia</u>	
National Adaptation Plan (on-going support from GCF/GIZ). Covers five priority sectors: public health; infrastructure and cities; water and coastal	The Programme's LLA approach operationalizes community-driven adaptation across the NAP priority sectors, particularly forestry, biodiversity, agriculture, and water. LLA investments generate locally grounded

resources; agriculture and food security; and forestry and biodiversity.	evidence and NbS outcomes that can directly inform the NAP adaptation priorities, financing strategy, and monitoring framework.
Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025: Adaptation priorities cover water security, coastal resources, agriculture and food security, resilient infrastructure, public health, and forest and biodiversity conservation, including a commitment to conserve at least 20% of terrestrial areas by 2030.	The Programme's NbS advances the NDC adaptation priorities through mangrove restoration, watershed management, agroforestry, and community-based conservation. Its gender-responsive, Indigenous Peoples-inclusive LLA approach aligns with the NDC's cross-cutting emphasis on inclusive adaptation, while NbS deliver LULUCF mitigation co-benefits.
National Climate Change Policy 2.0 (NCCP 2.0): Whole-of-nation framework for climate governance, resilience, and low-carbon development across all sectors.	Provides the overarching national framework for integrating adaptation and mitigation. The Programme's community-led, cross-sector approach to landscape management directly operationalizes NCCP 2.0 priorities at the local level.
Emerging OECM Framework: Recognizes conserved areas outside formal protected areas, including Indigenous territories, community-managed forests, and marine areas.	Directly supports the Programme's locally led conservation model, including ICCAs and ecosystem-based adaptation using NbS, by providing formal recognition of community-managed landscapes.
National Orang Asli Development Blueprint: National strategy for Orang Asli well-being, livelihoods, education, land rights, and community development.	The Programme's inclusive design supports Indigenous Peoples' participation, community resilience, and sustainable livelihoods, in direct alignment with the Blueprint's objectives.
<u>Maldives</u>	
National Adaptation Plan (on-going support from GCF/UNEP) to advance medium to long-term adaptation planning by strengthening institutional coordination, technical capacity for climate risk assessment, adaptation financing, and monitoring systems.	The Programme's LLA model operationalizes community-led adaptation at the local level, directly supporting the NAP's goal of integrating climate adaptation into island-level development planning. Grant-based LLA finance mechanisms and participatory governance structures complement the NAP institutional strengthening and adaptation objectives.
Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025: set economy-wide adaptation strategies spanning food and water security, coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, fisheries, public health, and disaster risk reduction, emphasising locally led and gender-responsive approaches.	The Programme's NbS and landscape approaches advance NDC 3.0 adaptation priorities across coastal protection, water security, food security, and biodiversity conservation. Community-led planning reflects the NDC's locally driven adaptation emphasis.
National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSDS) 2009: Sets long-term goals for sustainable development including climate adaptation, energy transition, food security, and ecosystem protection, with emphasis on inclusive, participatory development.	The Programme's NbS and landscape approaches support ecosystem health, fisheries, water resources, and coastal protection. Its participatory model aligns with the NSDS emphasis on community-driven, cross-sectoral development.
Climate Change Policy Framework (MCCPF): Provides strategic guidance for adaptation and mitigation, aiming to strengthen climate resilience and support low-carbon, decentralized, and participatory development.	The Programme's community-led NbS and watershed management operationalize MCCPF priorities at the local level. Landscape-scale planning enhances the effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation interventions across whole ecosystems.
National Framework for Management of Protected and Conserved Areas (2024–2029): Guides integrated management of protected and conserved areas across the Maldives, including marine ecosystems.	The Programme's ecosystem restoration and community stewardship of reefs, mangroves, and forests align with the Framework's goals for ecological integrity, participatory conservation, and sustainable resource use in and around protected areas.
<u>Mongolia</u>	
Aimag and Soum Development Plans: Local strategic planning tools that align with national development goals; aimag plans guide regional	These locally owned mechanisms serve as operational vehicles for the Programme's LLA model, translating national climate goals into community-driven, context-

development and some plans operationalize it at community level.	specific, and participatory adaptation actions.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2024–2030: Framework empowering local governments, communities, and herders to design and implement adaptation initiatives reflecting their specific vulnerabilities and priorities.	The Programme directly operationalizes NAP principles by shifting decision-making to affected communities while providing the technical, financial, and institutional support needed for effective local implementation.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0): Spans emission reductions and climate resilience, connecting national objectives with local-level implementation through participatory, context-specific climate action.	The Programme's community engagement approach and integration of local knowledge directly advance NDC priorities on decentralized implementation and community participation.
<u>Pakistan</u>	
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023 : Comprehensive framework for medium- to long-term adaptation across Pakistan, integrating participatory planning, ecosystem-based approaches, and evidence-based action at national and subnational levels.	The Programme's LLA model, landscape approach, and NbS fulfil NAP requirements for participatory local planning, ecosystem services (soil, water, forest management), and strengthened institutional and community capacity for monitoring and governance.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) 2025: National climate strategy combining mitigation and adaptation, with emphasis on ecosystem-based approaches, community participation, sustainable water management, and subnational alignment.	The Programme's NbS contribute to both resilience and mitigation targets. Its LLA approach integrates climate action into subnational planning and generates scalable models to support NDC reporting and national climate goals.
<u>Solomon Islands</u>	
National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2035	The Programme aligns with its 3 out of the 5 main objectives, namely sustained and inclusive economic growth; poverty alleviated, basic needs addressed and food security improved; and resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response and recovery.
National Climate Change Policy (2023–2032)	The Programme aligns with 3 out of the 6 main objectives, namely Establish and strengthen the governance framework to address climate change Emergency; Target adaptation and risk resilience on key vulnerabilities; and strengthen technical capacities for assessment, technology and finance mobilisation, and mainstreaming of climate change actions.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) 2025: prioritizes community resilience and adaptation across climate-vulnerable sectors through inclusive, locally responsive approaches.	The Programme aligns with the NDC by promoting decentralized action, stakeholder participation, and adaptation measures tailored to local needs and vulnerabilities.
National Disaster Risk Management Plan (2018): promotes disaster preparedness, response, and recovery through arrangements at national, provincial, and community levels.	The Programme aligns closely with the Plan by strengthening local and provincial institutions, and supporting participatory risk management tailored to local contexts and needs.
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2016–2025: Medium-term framework identifying adaptation priorities across agriculture, water, health, forestry, and coastal zones, guiding local mainstreaming of climate adaptation and strengthening institutional and community capacities.	The Programme's participatory LLA model, NbS (reforestation, wetland and watershed restoration), and landscape-scale planning respond directly to NAP priorities for community capacity, ecosystem protection, and cross-sectoral resilience.
Prajashakthi: National strategy for community empowerment and decentralized local governance, focused on improving livelihoods and social welfare	The Programme's LLA decision-making structures and NbS interventions reinforce Prajashakthi's participatory governance objectives. Landscape-level planning can

through community-driven participatory planning.	be incorporated into local council development plans, consistent with the strategy's decentralized governance framework.
Viet Nam	
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2021–2030, Vision to 2050: Medium- to long-term framework for participatory, cross-sector adaptation, guiding provinces and sectors to mainstream adaptation into socio-economic planning and strengthening institutional and community capacities.	The Programme's community-driven landscape planning, NbS (reforestation, wetland and mangrove restoration, sustainable agriculture), and local governance capacity building directly advance NAP adaptation objectives and support adaptive management and monitoring mechanisms.
National Green Growth Strategy for 2021-2030, vision towards 2050: Strategic framework for low-carbon, resource-efficient, and climate-resilient growth through sustainable forestry, agriculture, and coastal management, aiming for a green, resilient economy by 2050.	The Programme's NbS deliver carbon sequestration and climate resilience co-benefits. Landscape-level planning embeds community-led green growth into local and regional economic activities, consistent with the Strategy's inclusive, low-carbon development objectives.

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

UNDP Country offices will ensure that grants are awarded and initiatives implemented in compliance with national technical standards as per standard UNDP programming. Determinations on whether EIA, IEE or SEA thresholds are triggered will be made on the basis of screening each grant-funded activity once identified. National Coordinators acting as Secretary to the NLACs will carry out a first due diligence and compliance check with relevant national technical standards and AF ESP and Gender Policy when screening the grant proposals received from IP and LC organizations. NCs will, as necessary, guide the organizations to ensure alignment of the proposals with such standards and AF ESP policies, seeking support from relevant UNDP Country Office experts as needed, as a second layer of due diligence. Those grant proposals deemed aligned and consistent with these standards and ready for submission will be presented to the NLACs, the main decision-making bodies in each country, for formal review, including alignment with relevant technical standards and environmental and social screenings, and approval.

The UNDP Country Office is represented on the NLAC and provides another third layer of due diligence and quality assurance. Country Offices will support the identification of all relevant national technical standards during LAP development and implementation and help NCs to assist Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to address the specific requirements of national technical standards, whenever required. As part of this, UNDP COs will identify relevant authorities to be consulted, as necessary. Grant proposal eligibility criteria will include reference to applicability of national technical standards for proposal elements and activities and their compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund. Those people providing technical assistance to local communities in the design of proposals will receive information and training on national technical standards and compliance with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. Finally, as part of their review of the grant proposals, the NLAC will identify those with technical elements and assess the applicability of and compliance with national technical standards and the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. If needed, the NLAC can recommend revisions to proposals to achieve compliance, as required. In general, local communities will receive coaching and guidance during grant initiative formulation to identify potential technical issues and will be assisted in adapting initiative elements where necessary to comply with national standards. If needed, the NLAC can award up to USD 2,000 to support the process of adapting the design of initiatives to comply with national technical standards. Relevant national technical standards identified are presented in the table below.

Local actors will be supported and trained to understand and comply with the above standards and norms beginning with presentations and discussions at the LAP development workshops in which potential solutions to climate vulnerabilities are identified. Technical and policy experts will explain the norms and standards specific to an identified solution e.g. CRA methods, practices and systems; ecosystem restoration activities like reforestation and will identify and discuss design criteria for proposed grant initiatives to comply with them. Depending on the technical complexity of the proposed solution and the corresponding standards and norms, the technical and policy experts will provide follow-on training and accompany the initiative design process. The design of the initiative will include milestones and indicators consistent with compliance with the standards and norms. Through implementation of their initiative with attention to and support for compliance, local actors will learn by doing.

Relevant national technical standards	Programme alignment with technical standards
<u>Fiji</u>	
Environmental Management Act 2005: Establishes standards and procedures for environmental impact assessments (EIAs). Regulates natural resource conservation and empowers authorities to enforce environmental laws and integrate environmental considerations into planning and decision-making.	The Programme will align with the legal framework for EIAs for grant projects, ensuring interventions do not harm ecosystems. Grants will align community-led NbS (wetland restoration, mangrove rehabilitation, reforestation) with EMA requirements, supporting ecosystem health, biodiversity, and complementary local-level monitoring.
Fisheries Act (Cap.158): Regulates licensing, fishing methods, quotas, and habitat protection. Supports sustainable livelihoods for fishing communities while penalizing illegal or destructive fishing practices.	Some grant projects (mangrove restoration, reef rehabilitation, sustainable fisheries management) fall under this Act. The programme will engage local fishers in ecosystem-based adaptation measures that improve livelihoods, protect critical habitats and breeding grounds, and prevent overfishing, ensuring alignment with this Act.
Town planning act 1946 Cap.139: provides the legal framework for land-use planning, development control, and public consultation.	Where grants involve land-use change or ecosystem restoration, the Programme will ensure compliance with development control requirements and support local stakeholders to engage in formal public consultation processes. The Act's provisions on open space designation and development restrictions will be leveraged to secure long-term protection of restored ecosystems and embed community-led climate resilience measures.
Maritime Safety Authority Act 2009: While the Act focuses on maritime safety, marine pollution prevention, and regulation of vessels, it provides an important institutional and legal framework for protecting marine and coastal ecosystems that are central to Fiji's climate resilience efforts.	Grants involving coastal and marine ecosystem restoration will comply with the Act's marine environment protection and maritime activity regulations. The Programme will coordinate with the Maritime Safety Authority to ensure regulatory alignment for any grant-funded activities with a coastal or maritime interface, and draw on the Authority's mandate as an institutional partner for sustaining climate-resilient coastal management outcomes.
<u>Malaysia</u>	
Environmental Quality Act 1974 (EIA Order 2015): Applies to activities affecting environmentally sensitive areas; community-scale projects are generally below the EIA threshold.	Grant projects will undergo environmental screening. Where triggered, a Schedule EIA will be conducted by registered consultants and approved by DOE prior to implementation; otherwise, environmental safeguards will be applied.
National Land Code 1965: Governs land ownership, access, and land use in Peninsular Malaysia.	Land status will be verified prior to implementation. Projects will avoid land acquisition and ensure legal access through consultation with relevant authorities.
Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954: Governs Orang Asli administration and customary land use.	FPIC will be obtained and coordination with JAKOA ensured.

State Forest Laws: Regulates forest reserves, licensing, and allowable activities within forest areas.	Grant projects within or adjacent to forest areas will obtain required permits and avoid encroachment, with activities aligned with sustainable forest management practices.
PLANMalaysia Green Infrastructure Guidelines: Provides guidance for nature-based solutions and sustainable spatial planning.	Relevant interventions (mangroves, agroforestry, restoration) will align with national planning guidance and ecosystem-based approaches.
<u>Maldives</u>	
Environmental Protection and Preservation Act (Law No. 4/93) : Establishes the legal framework for environmental protection and conservation, prohibiting harmful activities and providing mechanisms for environmental assessment, monitoring, and enforcement across marine and terrestrial ecosystems.	Grant interventions (coral reef restoration, mangrove rehabilitation, forest conservation) will comply with environmental protection standards. The law guides LLA projects to protect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, ensuring community-led adaptation aligns with national environmental policy.
Land Act of the Maldives (Law No. 1/2002) : Governs land ownership, use, tenure, leasing, and land-use planning, including zoning and restrictions for sustainable development.	Identifies where grant projects can be implemented (public, reclaimed, or community-managed land). Ensures landscape-scale interventions (watershed management, coastal buffer zones) align with land-use regulations and provides a legal framework for dispute resolution.
Water Resources Protection and Management Regulation (2021/R-22): Regulates the protection and sustainable use of freshwater resources, establishing water quality standards and responsibilities for monitoring and enforcement.	Guides grant interventions protecting freshwater ecosystems (watershed restoration, wetland rehabilitation, sustainable irrigation). Ensures adaptation measures maintain water quality and supports local stewardship of water resources, in line with LLA principles.
Decentralization Act (Law No. 7/2010): Provides the framework for local governance and devolution of authority to island councils, promoting local participation in planning, decision-making, and environmental management.	Empowers island councils to lead adaptation planning and implementation, the core principle of LLA. Ensures interventions reflect local priorities and capacities, and facilitates alignment between community projects and national adaptation goals.
<u>Mongolia</u>	
Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2012): Establishes a screening system to determine requirements for General or Detailed EIAs.	A stepwise compliance process covers screening, permitting, technical design, implementation monitoring, and commissioning. Community-based initiatives generally do not require EIAs. Activities involving physical infrastructure or large-scale land-use change will undergo GEIA or DEIA as appropriate, with commissioning confirming all requirements have been met.
Law on Water (2012): Regulates water resource use and management, with compliance requirements for infrastructure and land-use activities.	Where applicable, the Programme will obtain land use permissions and necessary resource use permits in line with this law.
Law on Construction (2016): Governs technical requirements for construction and infrastructure activities.	Technical designs for any infrastructure components will comply with this law and any other relevant national standards.
<u>Pakistan</u>	
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) / Initial Environmental Examination (IEE): Regulations (2000): Legal framework requiring IEEs or full EIAs depending on project scale and risk. Establishes screening, review, and approval procedures, promotes mitigation measures, and	Relevant grant interventions (watershed restoration, reforestation, wetland conservation, rangeland management) will be designed to reduce environmental degradation and directly support EIA/IEE mitigation objectives. LLA's inclusive, community-led approach mirrors EIA/IEE requirements for stakeholder engagement.

ensures public consultation in environmental decision-making.	Landscape-level ecosystem indicators can be incorporated into Environmental Management Plans and help address cumulative impacts.
National Water Policy (2018): Framework for sustainable, integrated water resource management (IWRM) at all levels, covering water conservation, quality, climate resilience, and equitable access.	Landscape planning manages land, water, and ecosystems at catchment scale, consistent with IWRM principles. Interventions (check dams, infiltration ponds, wetland restoration, reforestation) support aquifer recharge and groundwater sustainability. Ecosystem restoration increases resilience to hydrological extremes, while the locally led approach aligns with the policy's emphasis on provincial and community participation.
Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014–2030): Operational framework identifying strategic actions for adaptation, mitigation, and climate governance across sectors and provinces, supporting capacity building, climate finance, and integration of climate considerations into development planning.	LLA directly advances the Framework's adaptation objectives by building community resilience to floods, droughts, and heatwaves. Relevant interventions (afforestation, watershed protection, rangeland restoration) align with the Framework's ecosystem priorities and reduce hazard exposure. Landscape planning integrates water, agriculture, forestry, and biodiversity sectors, matching the Framework's multi-sector implementation strategy.
<u>Solomon Islands</u>	
Environment Act 1998 and Environment Regulations 2008	In alignment with the regulations, grant-funded activities will be screened for environmental and social risks and the Programme will ensure compliance with regulations, including permitting requirements.
Land and Titles Act	The Programme will ensure that all activities are implemented with the free, prior and informed participation of affected communities and in accordance with applicable land tenure and access requirements.
National Disaster Management Plan and MID Engineering Standards	Any infrastructure supported by the Programme will be designed and implemented in accordance with applicable engineering and disaster resilience standards. This will help ensure that investments are climate-resilient, safe, and suitable for local hazard conditions.
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	
National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980: Includes regulations on Environmental Impact Assessments, Initial Environmental Examinations, and Strategic Environmental Assessments.	Given the limited scale of interventions, formal EIA/IEE/SEA approvals are not anticipated. Where applicable, compliance will involve written confirmations from local authorities, adherence to approved technical design standards, and oversight by NLACs and UNDP technical staff, preserving local ownership while ensuring full regulatory compliance.
Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment sector-specific guidelines (Soil Conservation Act No. 25 of 1951. Soil Conservation (Amendment) Act No. 24 of 1996. Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999. Seed Act No. 22 of 2003.): establish Sri Lanka's legal framework for sustainable land management, soil and watershed conservation, plant health and biosecurity, and the regulation of quality agricultural inputs to support resilient and productive agriculture.	Designs and implementation will follow nationally endorsed technical standards from relevant authorities (Department of Agriculture, Irrigation Department, NBRI, UDA). All interventions will prioritize climate-resilient design, regenerative land practices, and low-carbon technologies, keeping physical footprints minimal and environmental risks negligible.
Irrigation Department and Agrarian Development Department technical standards (Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 453, National Irrigation Act, No. 8 of 2013): Apply where small-scale irrigation rehabilitation or watershed-related activities are supported.	All proposed activities are expected to fall well below EIA/IEE/SEA thresholds under the National Environmental Act, consistent with the Programme's locally led, non-intrusive, small-grant-based design.
<u>Viet Nam</u>	

Law on Environmental Protection (2020) and its guiding decrees and circulars (Law No. 72/2020/QH14, Decree 08/2022/ND-CP, Circular 02/2022/TT-BTNMT, Decree 06/2022/ND-CP, Decree 45/2022/ND-CP.): Governs EIAs, Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, and Environmental Protection Plans for activities with potential environmental and social impacts.	The Programme will comply with all applicable national environmental, social, and technical standards, consistent with AF and UNDP safeguards. Where activities trigger EIAs or other permits, the Programme will identify legal requirements, outline compliance steps (preparation, review, disclosure, approval), and obtain necessary clearances from provincial Departments of Agriculture and Environment or other relevant authorities prior to implementation. Compliance will be monitored throughout.
--	---

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

There are currently no regional programmes systematically providing direct access to adaptation finance by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The programme proposed here will build on UNDP's decades-long, grant-making experience and UNDP's operational efficiencies at country and global levels. The programme will enhance national capacities at multiple levels to address climate change – national institutions (government and NGO), through their participation on the NLAC, will learn the purpose, design and implementation elements of the landscape approach as well as innovative methods of engaging with local stakeholders and supporting their leadership in designing and implementing landscape management for socio-ecological resilience; local governments will build their technical capacities to operationally and financially support their constituents' efforts to adapt to climate change. The regional programme, through the LKM, will bring together the LAP practitioners, government institutions, NGOs, second and third level organizations of smallholders, IPs, pastoralists and others in a community of practice to exchange information, knowledge and experience. This community at regional level may become a source of advocacy with regional institutions regarding landscape management in shared watersheds and other transboundary areas. The programme will complement and support the work of NIEs, where applicable – for instance, by building their capacity in LLA-specific approaches, the landscape approach and ecosystem services, engagement with IPs etc.

At country level, after initial selection of the potential landscape(s) for locally led adaptation planning and management, the NLAC will review and analyse planned or existing programmes and projects in target landscapes and determine scope for potential duplication, complementarity or synergy with a Landscape Adaptation Programme. An initial country-level screening of relevant initiatives, and related synergies and complementarities is presented below. In addition to those initiatives, in all eight countries, the Programme will achieve conceptual and operational synergies with the 8th operational phase of the GEF SGP. The SGP Country Programme Strategy purposefully avoids duplication and leverages synergistic coordination in participatory programming. The Programme will use and adapt the skills and capacities of the SGP National Steering Committees to form NLACs, as well as engage SGP National Coordinators in ensuring efficient and effective operational support to the programme.

The LAP to be developed and implemented by local stakeholders will not duplicate activities of existing initiatives as it will focus on a specific, underserved, and highly vulnerable landscape that is not directly targeted by current programs. The selection of the target landscape will be done by consensus of the NLAC who will review existing programmes and projects in candidate landscapes to ensure non-duplication and avoidance of overlap by implementation of a LAP process. LAP development and implementation will complement these initiatives methodologically (e.g. by demonstrating participatory planning and analytical process with local leadership), strategically (e.g. by building capacities of local stakeholders for adaptive management) and operationally (e.g. by providing direct access to grant financing to local stakeholder organizations).

Relevant initiatives	Synergies and complementarities
<u>Fiji</u>	
Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Coastal Communities of Fiji to Climate	Potential synergies in extending project interventions beyond shorelines to include upstream watersheds, agriculture, freshwater,

Change through Nature-Based Seawalls (AF)	and livelihoods, creating a ridge-to-reef planning framework.
Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks (AF)	The program goes beyond settlement-level interventions to aim at integrated urban-rural catchment management.
Revitalizing Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji (RESAR) (GEF)	Programme differs by channeling grants directly to community organizations and embedding these actions in broader, community-designed landscape plans.
Resilience Enhancement through Adaptation in the Pacific (REAP) (GEF)	The proposed programme goes beyond settlement-level interventions to aim at integrated landscape planning with a focus on locally led initiatives and participatory planning and governance.
<u>Malaysia</u>	
Integrated Landscape Management for Sustainable Food Systems, Landuse and Restoration in Sabah (GEF)	Potential complementarity with focus on community-led adaptation of palm oil landscape. Synergy: Builds on FOLUR to scale adaptation and strengthen landscape resilience.
Sustainable Forest Management (World Bank)	Potential complementarity with top-down federal policy and institutional forest regulation vs. bottom-up community stewardship.
NbS for Climate-resilient Landscapes and Communities; 2023-2030; Kelantan (GCF)	Synergy: National data sharing on NbS ROI. No Duplication: Geographically restricted to the East Coast (Kelantan).
Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme for the Urban Areas of Penang Island (AF)	The proposed program would add direct grant financing to IPs and LCs; locally led design and implementation of LAPs; integration of agriculture, forests, water resources, and livelihoods alongside urban systems; cross-country learning through common knowledge management system.
<u>Maldives</u>	
Building Climate Resilient Safer Islands in the Maldives (GCF)	Proposed program adds direct grants to communities and broader integration of water security, livelihoods, and local governance into adaptation planning.
Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient communities (TRACT) (GCF)	Proposed program can use TRACT-generated climate information to guide locally led decisions about ecosystem restoration and livelihood adaptation.
Secure Futures: Enhancing Climate and Socio-Economic Resilience Integrating Nature Based Solutions (AF)	Proposed program differs by embedding interventions in community-led landscape planning processes and linking lessons across countries through a common knowledge management system.
A Holistic Approach to Food Systems Resilience and Adaptation in Maldives (GEF)	Proposed program adds direct grant financing to community groups and embeds food system interventions within broader island-scale adaptation plans that also address coastal ecosystems, freshwater resources, and governance.
Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas in Maldives (GEF)	Proposed program broadens focus beyond protected areas to include inhabited islands, agricultural systems, water resources, and livelihoods, while strengthening local decision-making and adaptive management.
<u>Mongolia</u>	
Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk Management of Rural Communities in Mongolia (ADAPT) (GCF)	Strong alignment with community-based rangeland restoration and climate-resilient livestock management; provides climate risk information relevant to community-designed LAPs; generates tested approaches that can be replicated through direct community grants. Possible overlap if both programs support pasture restoration, water infrastructure, or livelihood diversification in the same soums.
Scaling Up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA) (Government of Federal Republic of Germany)	Proposed programme complementarity with policy integration, knowledge generation, and scaling of sustainable land management practices. Can help translate lessons from local landscape initiatives into nationally determined contributions and sector strategies.

Sustainable Ecosystem and Agriculture Management for Rural Development in Mongolia (STREAM+) (EU)	Proposed programme synergies with sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and rural livelihoods.
Ger Community Resilience Project (GCRP) (AF)	Proposed programme synergies in peri-urban areas through water management, green infrastructure, and community-based adaptation; participatory planning and NbS for flood control and improved living conditions.
Sustainable Pasture Management and Adaptation with Resilient Technologies for Herders in Mongolia (AF)	Proposed programme synergies with sustainable pasture management, resilient technologies, and improved herder livelihoods.
<u>Pakistan</u>	
Sustainable Actions for Ecosystems Restoration in Pakistan (SAFER Pakistan) (AF)	The proposed program would add a broader participatory planning framework, enabling communities to integrate restoration with water management, agriculture, grazing, and governance across whole landscapes.
Integrated management of land and water resources for strengthening climate resilience in flood affected areas of Balochistan, Pakistan (GEF)	Potential programme complementarity with (i) strengthening institutional, policy, planning frameworks to mainstream LDN and sustainable land management principles into provincial development; (ii) demonstrating climate-resilient restoration of degraded forest, agricultural, and rangeland ecosystems through integrated land and water management practices; and (iii) enhancing knowledge generation and gender-responsive monitoring, evaluation, and learning to inform adaptive management.
Community Resilience Program (WEF)	Programme complementarity through improved capacity, inclusive engagement, effective mobilization, and interventions at all levels and across NDC sectors.
Water 4 Development (UNDP)	Proposed programme complements project's climate adaptation and resilience of Gilgit Baltistan Province.
Recharge Pakistan: Building Pakistan's resilience to climate change through Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Green Infrastructure for integrated flood risk management (GCF)	Programme synergies from using the same interventions for community-based resource management; producing technical, hydrological, economic analyses that can support community-designed LAPs. The proposed program provides direct grant funding to IPs and LCs, giving them greater control over planning, budgeting, and adaptive management.
Integrated climate risk management for strengthened resilience to climate change in Buner and Shangla Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan (GCF)	Programme synergies from using community-based adaptation planning and knowledge management; providing local climate information that can strengthen landscape planning and adaptive management; supporting livelihood diversification and institutional capacity building. The proposed program would expand the focus from district-level climate risk management to integrated landscape governance for ecosystem restoration and NbS.
<u>Solomon Islands</u>	
Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara (AF)	Programme complementarity with project support to urban flood management, slope stabilization, and ecosystem-based interventions, as well as participatory planning.
Solomon Islands Knowledge-Action-Sustainability for Resilient Villages (SOLKAS) Project (GCF)	Programme complementarity with locally led adaptation and participatory planning; provides tools, climate data, and institutional experience that can directly support LAPs.
Adapting tuna-dependent Pacific Island communities and economies to climate change (GCF)	Potential programme complementarity on adaptation activities affecting tuna fisheries, coastal and marine landscapes where fisheries are central to livelihoods; livelihood resilience and climate-informed resource management.
Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI) (GEF)	Potential synergies with ridge-to-reef landscape planning and ecosystem restoration; technical models, assessments, and partnerships.
Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Improved Biodiversity Stewardship in the	Strengthens IPLC governance and biodiversity management. Closely aligned with proposed program's governance model and emphasis on direct community leadership and support to customary

Solomon Islands (GEF)	stewardship, local institutions, and rights-based conservation.
Revitalizing and transforming Solomon Islands' food system through sustainable agriculture and livestock production for enhanced environmental and community benefits (GEF)	Supports sustainable agriculture, livestock production, and food system resilience. Strong alignment with climate-resilient agriculture, agroforestry, soil management, and livelihood diversification; provision of technical and policy lessons relevant to community-designed LAPs.
Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific Gov4Res (AusAid, KOICA, Sida, FCDO, NZAid)	Potential learning from the grand-making mechanism and engagement with community-led organizations established under the Gov4Res initiative.
Sri Lanka	
Integrating Community-Led Adaptation and Climate Risk Reduction for Resilience Building at Local Level in Sri Lanka (AF)	The proposed programme will enable direct access to adaptation finance, locally led decision-making, and landscape-level LAP processes, ensuring that community priorities inform and shape broader programme reforms. Learning and feedback mechanisms under the project will provide a policy uptake pathway for locally generated evidence emerging from LLA-supported initiatives.
Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP)	The proposed programme will build on CRIWMP lessons, particularly by: applying locally adapted, low-cost solutions identified through CRIWMP, leveraging gender-responsive approaches to reduce time poverty and enhance women's economic participation.
Strengthening Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in Sri Lanka and India to Increased Impacts of Climate Change (AF)	The proposed program differs by providing direct grant financing to community organizations and by integrating interventions into community-led landscape plans with participatory monitoring and adaptive management.
Build Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka (AF)	The proposed program would broaden the scope from a district-specific project to a longer-term, locally led landscape governance process that gives communities greater control over priorities, budgets, and learning.
Viet Nam	
Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Thua Thien Hue Province Vietnam (CARe Hue) (GCF)	Potential programme complementarity with integrated watershed, coastal, and urban adaptation; provision of technical approaches and institutional experience directly relevant to community-designed LAPs. Programme directly provides grant finance.
Mekong EbA South: Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Context of South-South Cooperation (Thailand, Viet Nam) (AF)	Potential programme complementarity through ecosystem-based adaptation and South-South learning across the Greater Mekong subregion and NbS, participatory adaptation, and regional knowledge exchange. Offers methodologies and lessons that can inform landscape planning and cross-country learning. Limited overlap in knowledge management and ecosystem restoration activities. No direct granting to local stakeholders.
Groundwater resources in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Collaborative management to increase resilience (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand, Viet Nam) (AF)	Potential programme complementarity with groundwater governance and resilience. Highly relevant to water harvesting, aquifer recharge, and community water management; provides hydrogeological information and governance tools that can strengthen local landscape plans. Minimal overlap, largely confined to groundwater monitoring and management.
Supporting the implementation of net-zero nature-positive (NZNP) solutions in Viet Nam (GEF)	Potential programme complementarity for policy and investment frameworks for integrated climate and biodiversity solutions; supportive enabling policies and financing mechanisms that can scale successful community-led initiatives; linkage of local results to national climate and biodiversity commitments.
Strengthening Nature-Based Solutions to Restore Ecosystems, and Conserve and Enhance Blue Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity in Viet Nam (GEF)	Potential programme complementarity through focus on coastal and wetland restoration, blue carbon, and biodiversity conservation through mangrove restoration and community stewardship; provides technical methods and baseline data relevant to coastal LAPs. Possible overlap in coastal restoration activities in shared target areas.
Enhancing biodiversity conservation	Potential synergies in application of a landscape approach to

and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach (GEF)	conservation and climate resilience, directly relevant tools, partnerships, and lessons on landscape governance.
--	--

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

All LAPs and their component initiatives will produce knowledge generated by participatory and expert assessments of LAP and initiative performance against agreed targets and indicators. This knowledge will be codified in “lessons learned” reports, peer-to-peer technical information, and policy briefs. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and organizations will use the reports and technical information in adaptive management of their landscape and its resources. In particular, they will be learning by doing i.e., by leading, experiencing and consciously directing the adaptation and implementation of the landscape approach:

- Multi-stakeholder landscape governance and collaboration involving all local stakeholders that also supports conflict management among stakeholders;
- Participatory analysis of socio-ecological vulnerability and identification of potential solutions generating a consensus for planning and coordinated action;
- Capacity strengthening of community-based organizations, such as smallholder associations or pastoralist groups, as well as landscape level networks built from the ground up;
- Studying and understanding ecosystem structures, functions and services that sustain farm and community enterprises and well-being, and identify opportunities to link upstream ecosystem services to downstream communities and enterprises;
- Developing collaborative Landscape Adaptation Programmes that build shared responsibilities and decision-making among all stakeholders, which increases ownership, equitable benefits, accountability and compliance with agreed measures and values;
- Including vulnerable and marginalized actors in all aspects of landscape planning and management, particularly women and girls, IPs, people with disabilities, youth, and others;
- Participatory monitoring and transparent evaluation that promotes learning, trust and accountability through monitoring of landscape socio-ecological factors during application of the LAP;
- Generating knowledge for adaptive management and evidence-based inputs to policy dialogues, as well as for dissemination and exchange with other actors in other landscapes and countries.

With the production of knowledge, its codification for legibility and accessibility by all stakeholders, and its dissemination and exchange, LAP design, implementation and adaptive management will increase in efficiency and effectiveness. By implementing a regional system of knowledge generation and dissemination, efficiency and effectiveness gains will be more widely distributed among landscape organizations and government and NGO supporters. This knowledge will also be disseminated to other LLA Aggregator MIEs and RIEs, particularly if they are members of the NLACs, where coordination and collaboration will occur on M&E, KM and Learning through joint webinars, workshops, production of joint KM products, south-south exchange activities, etc.

Increasing multi-stakeholder collaboration around knowledge generation and dissemination will strengthen the capacities of participating countries to respond to climate events. This systematic exchange of lessons learned and best practice will form the basis of an emerging culture and community of knowledge that will build trust and accountability. This will lead to more timely, efficient and effective interventions in responding to climate change in the region, in participating countries and in the LAP landscapes.

Component and Outcome 3 of this programme – Component 3: *Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System* and Outcome 3: *Co-production of knowledge by Indigenous practitioners and trained scientists for improved adaptive management and stakeholder learning* – aim directly at developing the culture and community of knowledge generation and dissemination for landscape adaptive management and policy dialogue. To implement the Programme's knowledge management system, different actions at the three levels of regional, national and grant level are envisaged.

At the landscape level, the programme will capture Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities experience of LAP initiative design, implementation and governance. Knowledge management activities at the project level could include peer-to-peer learning, training and facilitated exchange of knowledge. Each grant-funded initiative – based on targets and indicators defined by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities themselves – will be assessed using a participatory methodology to evaluate project impact on ecosystem services, agricultural and livestock productivity, organizational and individual technical capacities and the overall production of knowledge. At the same time, knowledge from the design and implementation experience of LAPs and their constituent initiatives will be specifically codified for transmission to government institutions and agencies, including NIEs wherever relevant.

At the national level, each country will have a NLAC and National Coordinator working directly with the landscape platforms and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to (i) assist them to capture their lessons; (ii) conduct knowledge exchanges; (iii) organize training workshops; (iv) establish and nurture networks of NGO's and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; (v) and help to scale up and replicate best practices and lessons learned in adaptive management activities. Each LAP will outline a knowledge management plan. In addition, NLACs and NCs will provide guidance and develop local stakeholder capacities to standardize the uptake and organization of information, identify lessons learned and best practices and present findings and conclusions. Based on these experiences, NCs and NLACs will routinely produce knowledge materials in local languages, including project fact sheets, informational brochures and case studies, to disseminate at key national events and conferences and present to policy makers and other authorities. Some of the specific activities carried out at the national level will include knowledge fairs; stakeholder methodology workshops; and creating or strengthening landscape knowledge and advocacy networks.

At the regional level, the Programme will provide guidance and methodological tools for capture and dissemination of knowledge at the local level as well as aggregation and exchange at the regional level. It will share technical publications from relevant sources, organize regional workshops to exchange knowledge and provide training to staff; and share good practices emerging from the portfolio at global conferences and events.

Knowledge management and learning are integral parts of UNDP local action approach since 1992. The knowledge obtained from this programme's project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through national, regional and global networks of stakeholder organizations, where it can be used in replication, upscaling and adaptive management. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of grant funding. Targeted knowledge management and communications activities will aim to share lessons and experiences and showcase results of gender mainstreaming, as well as inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. UNDP also establishes partnerships to disseminate the lessons learned and best practices of its massive portfolio in case studies, fact sheets, publications, and new media. Key global level knowledge management practices include the knowledge management platforms (i.e., digital library of community innovations, communities connect platform); bringing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities voices to global forums; portfolio reviews and case studies; best practices; coaching and mentorship; storytelling, mapping technologies and expert locators; and communities of practice (CoPs).

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

process, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Given the demand-driven nature of this regional programme, consultations occur at two different points in time, in general: 1) pre-submission of this proposal i.e. during project concept and full proposal development, and 2) at the onset of programme implementation as part of LAP scoping and development in each country.

At national levels, initial consultations with relevant stakeholders took place to explain this regional programme concept – the landscape approach and participatory methods, the funding mechanism, the role of the NLAC (NSC, adapted), regional coordination for knowledge, technical assistance, etc. Stakeholders met and key findings from these consultations are summarized in the table below. All consultations were gender-responsive, and included dedicated engagement with women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups. Comprehensive consultations will be carried out upon endorsement of the Concept Note, and as part of the fully developed proposal development. This will include consultations *at the regional level*. Tentative institutions to be consulted include the International Land Coalition, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, CIFOR-ICRAF).

Consultations at the onset of Programme implementation will occur at global and regional level, as well as in each country in relation to the selected landscape as part of LAP scoping and development.

At landscape level, with the proposed landscape approach (LAP development and implementation), local landscape stakeholders will identify at the onset of implementation the landscape they will manage. Consultations with local stakeholders in the landscape will therefore take place at the very beginning of project implementation i.e. as part of landscape identification and confirmation. A practical protocol for these consultations will be made available once the overall regional programme starts.

Once the National Landscape Adaptation Committees (NLACs) – comprised of representatives of key stakeholder groups, including Designated Authorities, UNDP, NIEs whenever possible, and other relevant institutions and NGOs, as appropriate, including women's organizations and other vulnerable groups – have selected the candidate landscapes in which to work, National Coordinators will liaise with target landscapes' communities to first raise awareness about a potential landscape programme and confirm local stakeholder interest. Once interest has been firmly established, NCs will then organize formal gender-responsive consultations involving all landscape communities and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as part of a workshop in which they will identify and voice climate impact vulnerabilities and sustainable development priorities. In the workshop, stakeholders, including women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups, will set desired adaptation outcomes for the programme in the landscape and will identify and analyze the outputs and activities needed to achieve the outcomes. The workshop participants will then develop a LAP in which they prioritize the activities and analyse how, when and by whom the activities will be carried out, what the cost estimates might be, what they might learn from implementation of the different activities, what capacities might be needed to effectively implement them, etc. With the knowledge and information from this planning process, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will then select those activities that they want to implement and formulate proposals for grant financing with the assistance of the National Coordinators or others.

In the workshop, eligibility criteria for grant proposals will be discussed in detail. These will include reference to both the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and its Gender Policy, as well as country and landscape-specific criteria adopted by the NLAC itself. The local consultations will be documented as part of the workshop report. Minutes or notes from each consultation will be kept, including a list of stakeholders consulted (principles of choice, role, dates), a description of the consultation techniques (bilateral discussion, FGD), and key findings from the consultations with any concerns, conclusions, or next steps.

At national level, further consultations will be carried out during and after landscape selection with

relevant stakeholders and authorities, including land use and other ministries, NGOs, academic institutions, local and provincial governments, potential private sector partners, and others. These consultations are gender-responsive and prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized for support in enhancing their resilience to climate change impacts. These consultations may take place through bilateral discussions or in workshop settings or focus groups.

In general, all institutions are expected to be interested in the participatory approach to be followed for LAP development and implementation, as well as support for the programme in terms of information and knowledge sharing, as well as potential coordination or collaboration at country level. Country level representatives from these institutions, where they exist, are also posited as potential members of the National Landscape Adaptation Committees. The institutional representatives listed in the table will also receive periodic briefings on programme performance.

Regional consultations follow the same pattern as the consultations at global level, though now with a focus on regionally relevant institutions and organizations. In particular, gender-responsiveness of LAP development and implementation will be highlighted as will the programme's preferential focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups in the selected landscapes. As above, the institutions are expected to be interested in the participatory approach to be followed and in the exchange of knowledge and information during project implementation. Potential coordination or collaboration at country level will also be discussed with these regional entities, but it is expected that for it to effectively occur, it will have to be negotiated separately in each country.

National stakeholders consulted (with dates and consultation techniques)	Key consultation findings
<u>Fiji</u>	
Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment (11 March 2026, bilateral meeting with senior environment officers)	Confirmed alignment of the Programme with the National Adaptation Plan, Climate Change Act 2021, National Climate Change Policy 2018–2030, and NDC 3.0 priorities. Participants emphasized integration with climate data, early warning services, monitoring systems, and provincial planning, while strongly supporting the approach for vulnerable rural and coastal communities. They stressed the need for vertical integration so local actions inform national planning and reporting. Recommendations included aligning indicators with NAP monitoring frameworks, incorporating climate services and early warning systems, and coordinating with existing adaptation and disaster risk reduction programmes. Strong support was expressed for nature-based solutions, including mangrove, reef, and watershed restoration, alongside community preparedness and anticipatory action. Concerns included duplication with existing initiatives, sustainability beyond grant periods, and limited local capacity. Agreed next steps included continued consultations, technical review of draft documents, and alignment with national monitoring, reporting, and verification systems.
Ministry of Itaukei Affairs (Indigenous culture and lands) (18 March 2026, bilateral meeting with Permanent Secretary, Provincial Officer) NGO representative	The programme emphasized community-led adaptation within customary land and marine tenure systems, using grants to finance locally identified priorities. The Ministry's role includes coordinating with provincial, village, and traditional governance systems while ensuring cultural protocols and Indigenous governance are respected. Participants strongly supported Indigenous-led adaptation, integration of traditional knowledge, and respect for customary tenure. Recommendations included implementing through provincial and tikina structures, applying FPIC, strengthening Indigenous institutions, and prioritizing remote and vulnerable communities. They also stressed inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Concerns focused on bypassing traditional governance, unequal benefit distribution, and limited local capacity. Agreed next steps included close collaboration

	with the Ministry, use of existing systems for mobilization and monitoring, and safeguards to ensure cultural appropriateness, inclusion, and community ownership.
<u>Malaysia</u>	
Indigenous Community Representative of Kampung Chang Lama Sungai Gepai, Bidor, Perak (24 April 2026, bilateral meeting)	Community recognizes the need to conserve their land through mapping customary areas and documentation of traditional knowledge, including key ecological and cultural sites. While some support is provided, challenges remain such as limited capacity to use technology, ineffective infrastructure (e.g. water systems), water contamination, and land insecurity. Communities have taken their own initiatives to protect forests and resources but still face financial and technical constraints. This project will help strengthen community-led conservation by combining traditional knowledge with modern solutions, providing the necessary technical assistance in improving resource management, enhancing climate resilience, and equipment to support these efforts.
Biodiversity Management Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability of Malaysia (NRES) (7 May 2026)	Participants shared updates on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in Malaysia, including its alignment with Target 14 of the National Policy on Biological Diversity. They discussed how ABS principles apply to the Small Grants Programme and Locally Led Adaptation projects, particularly regarding traditional knowledge, equitable benefit-sharing, and prevention of biopiracy. The Forest Research Institute Malaysia, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, has received government funding to document Indigenous and local communities' traditional knowledge in collaboration with the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division of the Ministry of Health. Participants recommended integrating ABS awareness into LLA communication and outreach activities, including guidance on roles, procedures, and compliance requirements for communities and organizations. They also initiated discussions on developing a framework for Malaysia's Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Action Plan.
NBS Nature Based Solutions Malaysia (Start-up focused on development of green financing for protection of forests in Peninsular Malaysia) (27 April 2026, bilateral meeting)	Communities differ locally, but face common issues in land rights, cultural identity, and livelihoods. Land access and approvals are inconsistent, often informal, and depend on authorities. Use climate/environment signals (e.g. land conversion, forest loss) alongside community knowledge to prioritize landscapes. NGOs/civil society are key to bridge gaps, support communities, and enable implementation. Build livelihoods, capacity, and long-term financing to ensure lasting impact.

Consultations with NGOs/CBOs: Malaysian Nature Society, Save Rivers, PACOS Trust, Friends of Nature Activists Society (27 April 2026, bilateral meetings)	Participants emphasized selecting landscapes based on ecological significance and active community engagement, highlighting priority areas in Sarawak, Sabah, Kelantan, Pahang, and Johor affected by logging, mining, erosion, and pollution. A multi-landscape approach was recommended to reflect Malaysia's ecological and social diversity. Traditional food systems, including rotational farming and hill paddy, were identified as climate-resilient but threatened by land conversion, environmental degradation, and weak market access. Community-led solutions such as gravity-fed water systems and agroecological farming were seen as practical but limited by weak support and supply chains. Participants also noted gaps in climate data, research, and NGO presence, especially in Sarawak. Strong support was expressed for defining landscapes through ecological systems while ensuring compatibility with governance structures, direct community engagement, and support for traditional knowledge and customary governance. Communities in Banjaran Titiwangsa were identified as priorities due to drought, pollution, and declining water catchments. Participants stressed land rights, protection of water catchments and natural resources, community mapping, and awareness of land laws. The programme should strengthen existing farming systems through improved productivity, technology, and climate resilience, supported by partnerships with universities and organizations.
Small Grant Programme National Steering Committee members, including Center for Orang Asli Concerns, Academia, government (27-29 April 2026, bilateral discussions)	Consultations with National Steering Committee members, independent experts, and the Centre for Orang Asli Concerns emphasized a rigorous, data-driven approach to landscape selection based on climate risks, food security impacts, and spatial assessments such as flood, erosion, and sea-level rise maps. Participants recommended selecting diverse ecosystems—including forest, lowland, coastal, and urban areas—to capture varied adaptation strategies and avoid duplication. Stakeholders stressed prioritizing community-led adaptation, with food systems as part of a broader resilience framework. They highlighted combining Indigenous knowledge with scientific data, supporting locally led adaptation planning and monitoring, and promoting innovative climate-resilient livelihoods. Recommendations also included expanding technical expertise within governance groups and strengthening knowledge-sharing among communities and partners.
<u>Maldives</u>	
Consultation with local NGOs: Aminath Abdulla, Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS); Hassan Abdul Gayyoom, Icons Association; Abdul Azeez, Fonadhoo Environment and Sustainable Development (FESD) (30 April 2026, FGD)	Participants discussed criteria for selecting project sites in the Maldives, noting that while the country is a single landscape, priority should go to accessible islands with domestic airports and strong development potential. They cautioned against targeting areas such as Fuvahmulah, where existing grant funding may limit added value. Participants emphasized defining landscapes by shared climate vulnerabilities rather than administrative boundaries to better target vulnerable islands. UNDP noted that the LLM fund will focus on climate adaptation through ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient agriculture, and water and forest management, addressing gaps in adaptation finance. Participants also stressed using recent survey data on extreme weather impacts on marginalized groups, especially women and youth, to ensure social inclusion in project design and implementation.

Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy: Ahmed Waheed, Director, Climate Change Department; Thibyan Ibrahim, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department; Fathimath Zaina Shareef, Principal Environment Management Officer, Climate Change Department (3 May 2026, bilateral meeting)	Waheed emphasized the value of aligning the project with the Small Grants Programme framework while exploring innovative approaches that allow greater flexibility and more direct engagement with youth. Thibyan highlighted potential technical interventions, particularly climate-smart agriculture such as vertical farming and home gardening to strengthen food security. The Ministry stressed that all interventions should align fully with Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3 targets and national climate strategies. The UNDP team confirmed that these priorities are already being integrated into project design. As the project remains at the concept stage, there is still flexibility to refine funding allocations and further define geographic and thematic priorities, such as focusing on water-scarce islands.
<u>Mongolia</u>	
Focus Group Discussion with 17 individuals representing Civil society and non-governmental organizations; Ministry of Nature and Climate Change; National government institutions responsible for climate adaptation; Academia and research institutes; Members of the SGP National Steering Committee (28 April 2026).	Participants emphasized that collective action is essential for successful adaptation. Herders have organized groups to manage seasonal mobility and shared resources, with access to pasture and fodder identified as key livelihood concerns. Participants stressed combining traditional knowledge with modern technologies and ensuring adaptation is driven by community priorities. Water and land management emerged as major priorities, alongside inclusive approaches addressing the vulnerabilities of women, children, older people, and poor households. Recommendations included starting with small pilot initiatives, scaling up successful models, building on existing efforts, avoiding duplication, and working through local leaders and community institutions. Overall, participants strongly supported a locally led, participatory landscape approach to climate adaptation.
<u>Pakistan</u>	
Civil society organizations, community-based groups, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), academia, technical experts, and practitioners (FGDs, KIIs, and household-level engagements in Balochistan (11 December 2025; 9-12 March 2026); Punjab (5-9 January 2026); Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (3-5 December 2025, 15 December 2025); Sindh (30 December 2025-4 January, 2026; Northern Region (14-15 April 2026))	Limited community engagement in natural resource management and reliance on state-led plantation efforts with minimal local ownership were identified as key constraints. Forest degradation, heightened wildfire risks due to accumulated biomass, and heavy dependence on fuelwood for heating and cooking. Recurrent flooding, waterlogging, and weak infrastructure significantly affecting agricultural productivity and livelihood stability, compounded by limited institutional presence and access to technical support for climate-resilient practices. Communities emphasized importance of crop diversity, livestock systems, forest resources, and water availability in sustaining livelihoods. Women consistently highlighted constraints related to land ownership, access to inputs, mobility, and participation in community and institutional processes. Highlighted strong demand for simplified, accessible, and locally responsive financing mechanisms. Several constraints to effective climate finance implementation include limited technical and institutional capacity at the local level, weak coordination between actors, and the risk of elite capture.
<u>Solomon Islands</u>	
Key government agencies and civil society organisations including Ministries of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening; of Rural Development, of Fisheries and Marine Resources; of Forestry	During the initial consultative process, stakeholders confirmed that the proposed project concept is strongly aligned with the Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy (2023–2032) and its priority adaptation focal areas. Participants highlighted that the project will effectively complement ongoing national initiatives designed to strengthen resilient community livelihoods, protect biodiversity, and harness ecosystem services within rural and remote island communities. Furthermore, the consultations identified key opportunities for operational synergy with existing grant mechanisms; specifically, stakeholders noted that the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the Gov4Res Project have been successfully supporting

and Research; of National Planning and Development Coordination; of Agriculture and Livestock Development; of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration; Development Services Exchange; Worldwide Fund for Nature; The Nature Conservancy; Live & Learn (13 and 20 May 2026)	community-led climate adaptation and resilience actions through the provision of Small Grants and Low-Value Grants to established community-based organizations.
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	
Ministry of Environment and National Adaptation Advisory Committee (16 January 2026)	The programme should include local communities that, while not formally recognized as Indigenous, maintain strong cultural traditions and depend on forests and natural resources. Protecting cultural identity and traditional value systems should be treated as equally important as building climate resilience. It should also promote sustainable livelihoods and youth engagement to pass on these values and support climate-resilient income opportunities that reduce reliance on harmful practices. The Committee endorsed the programme, noting that strengthening the resilience of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is essential to Sri Lanka's adaptation goals. It also recommended considering other vulnerable groups and developing a clear, Sri Lanka-specific definition of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
Small Grant Programme National Steering Committee (18-19 May 2026)	The SGP NSC represents a majority of non-government representatives (NGOs/CBOs, academia). Institutions represented included Ministry of Environment (Environment policy and planning division, Environment Training and Project division, Natural Resources Management division, International Relations division, Marine Environmental Protection Authority), the International Water Management Institute (international NGO), CSOs (University of Peradeniya, University of Jaffna, Green Movement of Sri Lanka, Food First Information and Action Network of Sri Lanka, private Institution - MAS Holdings). NSC provided its consent, recognizing that strengthening the resilience of Indigenous and local communities is critical to achieving Sri Lanka's climate adaptation objectives. At the same time, the NSC advised that the programme should explore the inclusion of other potential vulnerable groups beyond the initially proposed landscapes and develop a clear, country specific definition of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), grounded in the Sri Lankan context.
Indigenous (Veddha) communities from Pollebadda, Dambana, and Rathugala, including community members, local leaders, and the Wanniyalaetto (traditional leader) (18-19 May 2026, FGD)	Participants identified a range of community driven and culturally appropriate adaptation options, including: Climate resilient agriculture (drought resistant crops, controlled environment farming, organic practices, agroforestry); Improved water management (wells, small-scale irrigation, rainwater harvesting); Livelihood diversification (poultry, dairy, value-added forest products, community based eco and cultural tourism); Capacity and skills development for youth and women (self-employment, entrepreneurship, and trades); Cultural revitalization through documentation and intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledge; Strengthening community institutions and producer groups to support collective adaptation planning; and Promotion of women and youth engagement in agriculture, tourism and other income generating activities.
Movement for National Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) (27 April 2026, bilateral meeting)	MONLAR noted its ongoing work with Indigenous groups to promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices and expressed interest in exploring collaboration to support programme implementation.)
<u>Viet Nam</u>	
Consultation with Small Grant Programme National Steering	<i>Broad-based, documented and policy-aligned stakeholder engagement:</i> The consultation convened a diverse and representative set of stakeholders,

Committee Members representing a majority of non-government representatives (NGOs/CBOs, academia). Institutions included Faculty of Environment, Viet Nam National University, Vietnam Association of Forestry Science and Technology, Vietnam Forest Owner Association (Indigenous Peoples organization), Former Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, indigenous people, Institute of Natural Resources and Environment Development, Vietnam Association for Clean Water and Environment, Vietnam Environment and Protection Fund (25 May 2026, FGD)	including national and provincial government authorities, the SGP NSC, UNDP, and mass organizations (e.g., Women's and Farmers' Unions)—demonstrating strong multi-level political buy-in. Stakeholder selection reflected AF requirements for inclusivity across governance levels and sectors relevant to landscape adaptation, and discussions confirmed clear alignment with national policies and provincial priorities in Quang Tri. <i>Participatory consultation with clear documentation of methods and inputs:</i> The consultation combined structured presentations on the LLA approach, participatory methods, funding modality, and institutional arrangements (including NLAC) with interactive multi-stakeholder and sector-specific discussions. Detailed minutes recorded participants, methods, and key technical inputs, ensuring traceability and compliance with AF requirements for pre-concept documentation. <i>Strong consensus on a locally led, landscape-based design with technical inputs:</i> Stakeholders endorsed the landscape approach and small grants modality, emphasizing community-driven, ecosystem-based solutions across forestry, fisheries, and agriculture. Recommendations covered priority interventions, governance, and resource allocation, showing strong readiness to support implementation financially and institutionally. <i>Evidence of gender responsiveness and inclusion of vulnerable groups:</i> The consultation included perspectives from the Women's Union and highlighted vulnerabilities of women and ethnic minority communities. Stakeholders proposed targeted measures such as women-led livelihoods, improved access to finance, and capacity building, demonstrating meaningful participation of marginalized groups in programme design, aligned with AF gender and inclusion requirements.
---	--

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

This Programme highlights the urgent need for better coordination, innovation, and financing to enhance climate change adaptation efforts on the ground, particularly in vulnerable landscapes. The Programme will address the fragmented nature of climate adaptation projects by promoting a participatory landscape planning and management approach to enhance the socio-ecological resilience of ecosystem function and agropastoral production. An important objective of this landscape approach is to ensure that locally led climate adaptation initiatives are not siloed but instead leveraged collectively to achieve greater impact at cross-landscape scale from ecological (hydrological) and socio-economic synergies. Without such a coordinated landscape approach, the opportunities to maximize socio-ecological resilience benefits through grant funding of locally led initiatives and the generation and dissemination of knowledge are lost. This coordination also serves to enhance monitoring and learning activities that can inform and improve ongoing efforts.

A central premise of the Regional Programme and its constituent LAPs is that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, such as women, the elderly, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and the poor. The IPCC 6th Assessment Report underscores that under all emissions scenarios, climate change reduces societies' adaptive capacities and heightens risks of poverty, food insecurity, and forced economic transitions—especially in fragile ecological contexts. It emphasizes the need for adaptation strategies that are inclusive, rights-based, and poverty-focused. These strategies are more effective at minimizing the residual risks of climate change. In this context, the Regional Programme will support LAP development and implementation built on supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to design and implement coordinated innovative, community-based solutions to enhance resilience.

Despite growing awareness of the importance of adaptation, the financial and technological support landscape remains heavily tilted toward mitigation rather than adaptation. This proposal cites a number of sources (IPCC, World Bank) emphasizing that adaptation innovations are underfunded and face multiple barriers, including lack of capacity, weak technology ecosystems, and insufficient access to finance in developing countries. The Regional Programme will work to close this gap by supporting local

IP and LC leadership in identifying, designing, implementing and evaluating their own resilience-enhancing initiatives, expediting technical assistance and capacity development, facilitating bottom-up/top-down innovation and the organic emergence of an innovation system, and supporting local Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to generate knowledge for dissemination to peers, policy makers and others.

The Programme's support to locally led LAP development and implementation represents a targeted approach to address the obstacles to the autonomous exercise of agency by local stakeholders, particularly recognizing and respecting traditional knowledge and experience and the capacity benefits from learning-by-doing and participatory evaluation of their activities. This approach represents the core of innovation i.e. conscious design of identified priority activities with indicators and targets, implementation and periodic monitoring of milestones, final evaluation of what has worked and not, generation of information and knowledge (lessons), and next steps with adaptive measures to improve performance.

De facto, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities innovate in managing their agropastoral ecosystems but often without a consistent methodology that can produce actionable conclusions with confidence – the Regional Programme will provide a coherent approach to identifying, supporting and disseminating locally-generated innovations. The LAPs promote stakeholder-driven entrepreneurial responses to climate challenges by providing grant financing to foster innovative technologies, practices, systems and business models aimed at enhancing climate resilience. Given the general lack of other sufficient investment in adaptation, especially for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the Programme will provide critical seed funding for resilience-enhancing initiatives. Through the NLACs and NCs it will also connect grantee organizations with potential funders for scaling purposes.

This Regional Programme proposal emphasizes that to effectively combat climate change impacts—particularly for the most vulnerable populations—adaptation efforts must be better coordinated, more inclusive, locally led and significantly better funded. Innovation, technology transfer, and local empowerment through targeted finance and technical assistance are essential pillars of this effort.

At national level, LAPs will benefit from the experience of UNDP's grant-making mechanisms, including the SGP Country Programme, National Steering Committee and National Coordinator, as well as the systems and procedures in place to effectively monitor implementation and grant administration and disbursement. Nevertheless, the regional programme has been structured in a way that it is expected to deliver its outcomes and outputs independently from SGP.

In line with UNDP's experience implementing similar grant-making mechanisms, contributions from grantees will be encouraged, whenever possible, as an addition to the grant funding provided by the regional programme, with an indicative target of reaching a 1:1 ratio.

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

The sustainability of programme outcomes is premised on a number of principles: one, socio-ecological resilience requires a landscape approach that encompasses ecosystem function at the appropriate scale and is owned, driven and led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in a process of collective planning, management and governance. The Programme engages local stakeholders in analysing climate impacts on ecosystem function and their production systems; involves them in identifying and crafting innovations and other solutions to their vulnerabilities to climate impacts as part of a strategic approach to landscape investment and uses participatory monitoring and evaluation to distil lessons for use in adaptive landscape management and policy dialogues.

A key ingredient of sustainability is the motivation by land and resource users to adopt, innovate, apply and continuously adapt resilience-enhancing practices, inputs, and systems. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are highly unlikely to adopt new practices or systems if their costs are not recovered by increases in income or food security. New practices and systems require investment and knowledge,

together with the capacity to apply these efficiently. While adoption requires capital, financial institutions perceive investment risk in financing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities given their lack of experience with innovative resilience-enhancing practices and systems. This Programme will provide grant funding to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to build their capacities through learning-by-doing, thereby making them more capable of accessing credit or entering into partnerships with outside investors. As they build their capacities, knowledge and experience, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will become more adept at accessing markets and more effective business managers.

By developing LAPs, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities experience and own a step-by-step, participatory framework for systematically defining and prioritizing investments in a landscape, including capacity building, partnership establishment, and market analysis and access. LAPs are designed as living planning instruments owned by community institutions and, where relevant, local government, so that planning and resource mobilisation continue cyclically beyond Programme funding. In developing the LAPs, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities practice unofficial landscape governance by prescribing peer-to-peer compliance with consensus-based land management rules. With experience gained and the strengthening of their organizations and landscape networks, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are empowered to advocate relevant policy reforms and participate in formal, official governance at landscape and other levels, as well as to continue to develop non-formal governance with other Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

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

While the project is expected to have mainly positive social and environmental impacts and integrates social and environmental standards in its design, a number of risks were identified. As per the AF's Environmental and Social Policy, the principles and standards outlined in the table below are triggered. Potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts are few in number, limited in scale, largely reversible and can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty and readily addressed through application of recognized good international practice, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during project design and implementation. The overall project risk category is B as per the AF's Environmental and Social Policy. The planned relevant social and environmental assessments and management measures are described in the relevant sections of this document. The outcome of the preliminary screening carried out as part of the development of the concept note is provided hereunder.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
<i>Compliance with the Law</i>		As per the AF ESP, this principle always applies. There is a risk that the grant-funded initiatives do not comply with applicable domestic and international laws including but not limited to planning permission, environmental permits, construction permits, permits for water extraction. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures include the identification of relevant applicable laws during LAP development and implementation and support to IPs and LCs to comply such laws.
<i>Access and Equity</i>		There is a risk that the Programme does not provide fair and equitable access to benefits, particularly with respect to the groups it plans to support (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities). While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures include ensuring a majority of IPs and LCs representatives in the NLACs and inclusion of

		access and equity principles during the review of grant proposals.
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>		The participation of marginalized groups may not adequately be considered or supported during the design and implementation of LAPs or grant initiatives. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully develop proposal, preliminary measures include grant proposals review protocols to include questions on participation by marginalized groups, inclusion of a description of the participation of marginalized communities to grant initiatives.
<i>Human Rights</i>		As per the AF ESP, this principle always applies. No Human Right Council Special Procedures were identified in the participating countries. Fiji and Sri Lanka are parties to the nine, core international human rights treaties. Maldives and Mongolia are parties to all but the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Pakistan and Viet Nam are parties to all but the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Solomon Islands is a party to all but the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Malaysia a party to all treaties but the Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance. During implementation, the programme will monitor the status of the above and any implications regarding the above on LAP implementation as well as define mitigation measures as necessary (e.g., emphasizing human rights dimensions as part of project eligibility criteria).
<i>Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment</i>		The programme approach, design and activities might not fully reflect views, priorities and constraints of women and girls and might not ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement in implementation and accessing the project benefits. Management measures, including the process by which grant applicants will be screened for and receive guidance and support related to the AF GP, will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal. An example of mitigation measure may be that individual grant proposals will include descriptions of how the proposed interventions will contribute to the programme level gender action plan.
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>		The programme may support activities where working conditions might not meet national labor laws and international commitments. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures include conducting due diligence as part of the proposal development process to ascertain that third parties who may engage project workers are legitimate entities and have in place appropriate policies, processes and systems that allow them to operate in accordance with the applicable minimum requirements.
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>		Indigenous Peoples might be excluded from fully participating in decisions that may affect them; and there may be grievances or objections arising from potentially affected stakeholders. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal,

		preliminary measures include for landscapes where IPs are residing or have claims, representatives of the IP groups will be invited to join the NLACs..
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>		Although the Programme is not expected to result in physical displacement, this Principle is triggered due to the presence of USPs which, despite being at low risk, might impacts on access to land and livelihood resources. Such economic displacement will be assessed during the review of grant proposals, and mitigation measures defined as necessary.
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>		Poorly designed or executed activities supported by the programme may affect natural habitats; may include harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation; may be related to animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures include the identification of critical natural habitats during the baseline assessments to be carried out under Component 1., to better assist with the development of grant-funded initiatives in such areas.
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>		Poorly designed or executed activities supported by the programme may affect biodiversity sensitive areas. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures include the identification of critical ecosystems during the baseline assessments to be carried out under Component 1., to better assist with the development of grant-funded initiatives in such areas.
<i>Climate Change</i>		While the Programme is not expected to result in any significant or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change, some unidentified grant-funded activities involving livestock may result in localized increases in methane emissions. Given the small-scale, community-based nature of the activities on their focus on climate-resilient and improve land management practices, the risk is assessed to be minimal. Potential emissions and mitigation measures will be assessed qualitatively during the review of grant proposals.
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>		Some interventions might involve agrochemicals which may result in the release of pollutants to the environment. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures may include the promotion of non-chemical options in agricultural activities.
<i>Public Health</i>		Some interventions might involve agrochemicals which may result in the release of pollutants to the environment, negatively impacting workers' health. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures may include the that proper agrochemicals handling measures are defined in the grant proposals whenever a risk on public health has been identified.
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>		The programme may support initiatives impact tangible or intangible cultural heritage in the target landscapes-seascapes. While management measures will be described in the ESMP to be included in the fully developed proposal, preliminary measures may include employ standardized review criteria utilized in similar grant-making mechanisms to ensure quality assurance and to screen any potential specific cultural heritage-related risks at individual grant level.
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>		The programme is not expected to pose any risks to land and soil conservation but rather will aim to address challenges related to climate change including land degradation and promoting sustainable land management and erosion control. However, this Principle is triggered due to the presence of USPs. Preliminary measures may include the presence of fragile soils and activities that could result in the loss of otherwise non-fragile soils during LAP development.

The Regional Programme proposed here includes activities that are critically dependent for their formulation on the outcome of other project/programme activities and that can only be fully formulated on the basis of these prior achievements. This is the case for this Programme and the LAPs which include a grants mechanism, where applications for funding of grant activities will be invited during implementation, within an objectives and operational framework (the LAPs) that is clearly defined in the proposal.

For locally led adaptation to be successful, intensive local stakeholder involvement is required in the development of the objectives and operational framework of LAPs. The process of developing the LAPs builds ownership, agency and capacity so that participant Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are enthusiastic and able to identify the grant activities required to fulfil LAP objectives and outcomes. Their participation is a pre-condition for the formulation of the LAP grant activities. The environmental and social risks associated with these grant activities can only be discerned during LAP formulation and analysis of LAP grant activities and LAP initiative development.

Given the fact that the grant-funded initiatives will only be identified and sourced at the outset of the proposed Programme, this represents a case of Unidentified Sub-Project (USP), which justifies the assigned programme ESP categorization as B. At programmatic level, and in line with the guidance document for projects/programmes with USPs, the ESMP to be provided with the fully developed proposal will provide mechanisms to track identified ESP-related risks, ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented, and that they are properly monitored and reported on. Both an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which will include FPIC considerations, and a Grievance Mechanism will be provided in the fully developed proposal. The ESMP will be revised during implementation based on USP risk screening. Each grant-funded initiative will be subject to its own screening, in line with the Guidance document for Project/Programmes with unidentified sub projects.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1: Landscape Adaptation Programmes, consisting of multiple resilience-enhancing initiatives, prepared by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for countries in adapting to climate change	Number of LAPs designed and under implementation; Number of multi-stakeholder landscape platforms established	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	3,407,931
Outcome 2: LLA initiatives designed, financed and implemented to meet LAP objectives for improved climate resilience of IP and LC selected landscapes	Number of locally led initiatives designed and implemented; Total land area managed for resilience per LAP	Outcome 5: Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	Indicator 5 (Core Indicator 4): Ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management in response to climate variability and change	19,159,458

Outcome 3: Co-production of knowledge by Indigenous practitioners and trained scientists for improved adaptive management and stakeholder learning	Number of evaluations and analyses of grant project performance; Number of lessons learned publications in local languages; Number of policy recommendations	Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	Indicator 3B: People implementing new or improved adaptation actions	3,887,934
Total outcome-level grant amount				26,455,323
Project Outputs	Project Output indicator(s)	Fund output	Fund output indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Output 1.1: Multi-stakeholder National Landscape Adaptation Committees established	Number of Multi-stakeholder National Landscape Adaptation Committees established	Output 2.2: Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and programme adaptation finance	Indicator 2.2: Local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality	851,983
Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder landscape management and governance platforms established	Number of Multi-stakeholder landscape management and governance platforms established	Output 2.2: Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and programme adaptation finance	Indicator 2.2: Local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality	851,983
Output 1.3: Landscape Adaptation Programmes developed in each participating country	Number of Landscape Adaptation Programmes developed in each participating country	Output 2.2: Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and programme adaptation finance	Indicator 2.2: Local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality	1,363,172
Output 1.4: Priority community and landscape level initiatives in the LAPs identified	Number of Priority community and landscape level initiatives in the LAPs	Output 2.2: Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and programme adaptation finance	Indicator 2.2: Local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality	340,793
Output 2.1: LLA initiatives financed and supported	Number of LLA initiatives financed and supported	Output 5.1: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including	Indicator 5.1: Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management	16,285,539

		variability		
Output 2.2: Local organization capacities strengthened for grant project design and implementation	Number of Local organization whose capacities have been strengthened for grant project design and implementation	Output 5.1: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 5.1: Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management	2,873,919
Output 3.1: Development and implementation of a peer-to-peer learning and exchange programme at national and local levels for upscaling and adaptive management	Peer-to-peer learning and exchange programme at national and local levels operational	Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	Indicator 3.2: Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders	1,166,380
Output 3.2: Development of knowledge products from landscape planning and implementation experience and national, regional and global dissemination	Number of knowledge products developed	Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	Indicator 3.2: Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders	907,185
Output 3.3: Lessons learned and knowledge presented to influencers and policy makers in broader policy forums	Number of lessons learned and knowledge presented to influencers and policy makers in broader policy forums	Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	Indicator 3.2: Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders	907,185
Output 3.4: Operationalization of the Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System	Regional Learning and Knowledge Management System operational	Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	Indicator 3.2: Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders	907,185
Total output-level grant amount				26,455,323

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government⁹

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

<i>Ms. Ariuntuya Dorjsuren, Director General, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia</i>	<i>Date: July 6, 2026</i>
<i>Mr. Amjad Abdulla, Director General, Climate Change Department, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Republic of Maldives</i>	<i>Date: June 4, 2026</i>
<i>Mr. Datuk Nor Yahati Binti Awang, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia</i>	<i>Date: January 30, 2026</i>
<i>Mr. David Hirasia Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Solomon Islands</i>	<i>Date: January 21, 2026</i>
<i>Mr. K.R. Uduwawala, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka</i>	<i>Date: January 29, 2026</i>
<i>Dr. Sivendra Michael, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji</i>	<i>Date: February 6, 2026</i>
<i>Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Ghani, Senior Joint Secretary (climate change), Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Pakistan</i>	<i>Date: July 6, 2026</i>
<i>Dr. Nguyen Tuan Quang, Deputy Director General, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam</i>	<i>Date: July 6, 2026</i>

B. Implementing Entity certification

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, <u>commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.	
<i>Name & Signature Implementing Entity Coordinator</i> Nancy Bennet Director, Quality and Impact Hub Executive Coordinator, Vertical Funds Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) UNDP	
Date:	Tel. and email: +1 (212) 906-5000/ nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Contact Person: Ms. Diana Salvemini, Global Technical Advisor on Local Action	
Tel. And Email: +12129065094 – diana.salvemini@undp.org	

Annex 1: Synthesis of preliminary gender analyses carried out in all participating countries

Across all countries, the analyses show that gender equality is not a secondary consideration but a core determinant of climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity. Women and men experience climate risks differently because of socially defined roles, unequal access to resources, and differences in decision-making power. At the same time, they possess complementary knowledge and skills that are essential for effective adaptation.

Women Face Greater Climate Burdens, but Also Hold Critical Knowledge: Women are often responsible for food production, water collection, household health, and caregiving. Climate change increases these responsibilities by reducing crop yields, drying water sources, and intensifying disasters.

- In Fiji, women manage home gardens, preserve seeds, and care for children and elders during cyclones. When saltwater intrusion damages crops, women must work harder to maintain family nutrition.
- In Maldives, women are concentrated in lower-value or post-harvest roles with limited access to managerial positions.
- In Sri Lanka, women in drought-prone districts spend more time collecting water and often eat less so children can eat during climate-induced food shortages.
- In Pakistan, rural women perform much of the agricultural and livestock labor while also collecting water and fuelwood under increasingly harsh conditions.
- In Solomon Islands women play a central role in subsistence agriculture, household food security, water management, and small-scale fisheries, and possess extensive indigenous knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem stewardship. As climate change intensifies water scarcity, food insecurity, and coastal degradation, women face growing burdens while remaining key actors in community-based adaptation and resilience-building.
- In Mongolia, women process dairy, care for young animals, and manage household finances during drought and dzud.
- In Malaysia, Indigenous women lead community mapping, seed conservation, and biodiversity restoration.
- In Vietnam, women hold extensive local and traditional knowledge related to seed selection, diversified cropping systems, soil fertility management, nontimber forest products, household water management, and food storage.

These examples demonstrate that women are not simply vulnerable beneficiaries; they are custodians of practical ecological knowledge and frontline managers of resilience.

Men Experience Different Climate Risks and Possess Distinct Capabilities: Men are more likely to be involved in commercial agriculture, fishing, herding, forestry, and wage labor. Climate shocks can result in sudden income loss, increased stress, and migration.

- In Fiji and Pakistan, men often negotiate land use and market access but may lose income after floods or droughts.
- In Sri Lanka, men dominate irrigation committees and farmer organizations, shaping which adaptation investments are prioritized.
- In Maldives, men dominate physically intensive activities (e.g. aquaculture infrastructure),
- In Mongolia, men are responsible for long-distance livestock movements and negotiating access to pasture and water.
- In Malaysia, men are more represented in formal community leadership and natural resource governance.
- In Vietnam, men are more likely to control productive assets and participate in governance institutions.

Structural Gender Inequalities Limit Adaptive Capacity: The country analyses consistently identify structural barriers that prevent women from fully participating in and benefiting from climate action.

Unequal Access to Assets and Finance: Women often lack land ownership, collateral, and access to formal banking, extension services, and insurance.

- In Pakistan, women perform approximately three-quarters of agricultural labor but rarely own land.
- In Sri Lanka, personal and customary laws can restrict women's ownership and inheritance rights.

- In Fiji, women have land use rights through customary systems but limited influence over leasing and major land decisions.
- In Mongolia and Malaysia, women face difficulties accessing credit and climate information because of mobility and time constraints.
- In Maldives, women have limited access to finance, land and productive assets.
- In Vietnam, women are under-represented on climate finance mechanisms and local decision-making bodies.

As a result, women frequently rely on informal lenders or are excluded from investment opportunities.

Time Poverty and Unpaid Care Work: Women carry a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic and caregiving responsibilities.

- Sri Lanka's Time Use Survey shows women spend substantially more time than men on unpaid work.
- In Mongolia, women spend roughly one-fifth of the day on unpaid care compared with less than half that for men.
- In Maldives, women play a primary role in household water management where scarcity increases unpaid labour burdens reduces time for economic participation, impacts household health and food security.
- In Vietnam, women do 3-5 times more unpaid care work than men, limiting time for participation in collective action.
- Similar patterns are reported across Fiji, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

This "time poverty" limits women's ability to attend training, participate in meetings, or manage businesses.

Limited Voice in Decision-Making: Traditional and formal institutions remain largely male-dominated.

- In Fiji, customary chiefly structures shape land and resource decisions.
- In Pakistan, local governance and extension systems often engage primarily with men.
- In Malaysia and Mongolia, women's presence does not always translate into real influence.
- In Sri Lanka, women are central to food and water management but are often absent from planning bodies.
- In Maldives, women's participation in local governance and island-level decision-making processes remains limited.
- In Vietnam, women's representation declines sharply at sub national levels (below 20% in rural areas, particularly in land management boards, forest protection committees, and local disaster risk management structures).

Locally Led Adaptation as a Pathway to Transformative Change

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) offers a practical mechanism to address these structural barriers and shift power and resources closer to communities.

Women as Leaders and Innovators: LLA can enable women to move from being viewed as vulnerable recipients to recognized leaders of adaptation. Examples include:

- Women-led mangrove restoration and climate finance committees in Fiji.
- Estate-sector women receiving simplified grants for drought-resilient home gardens in Sri Lanka.
- In Maldives, women have been expressly targeted for training and livelihood programmes, and participation mechanisms have been devised to increase women's engagement.
- Rural women in Pakistan accessing climate finance for clean energy, livestock, and water-saving technologies.
- Female herders in Mongolia investing in fodder enterprises and renewable energy.
- Indigenous women in Malaysia leading biodiversity conservation and sustainable enterprises.
- In Vietnam, younger women, in particular, show growing engagement in digital platforms, producer groups, and value chain innovation, indicating strong potential for transformative change when structural barriers are addressed.

Reducing Workloads and Increasing Economic Autonomy: Gender-responsive adaptation promotes technologies and enterprises that save time and improve incomes, such as rainwater harvesting, clean cookstoves, efficient irrigation, dairy processing, and eco-tourism. For example, a Pakistani woman who adopts a solar water pump and improved cookstove can reduce hours spent

collecting fuel and water while improving health and productivity.

Engaging Men and Youth: Transformative change requires working with men and boys as allies. Shared caregiving responsibilities and joint decision-making reduce backlash and strengthen household resilience. Youth contribute digital skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship across all countries.

Safeguards and Gender-Based Violence Prevention: Climate shocks can increase risks of gender-based violence, especially during displacement and economic stress. Programmes must ensure safe participation, confidential grievance systems, and safeguards that prevent unintended harm.

Programme Design Implications

Across all countries, effective gender-responsive LLA should:

- Ensure meaningful participation and leadership of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.
- Use simplified, accessible grant mechanisms for women-led initiatives.
- Provide tailored capacity building, mentoring, and leadership training.
- Recognize and integrate women's and men's traditional ecological knowledge.
- Invest in labor-saving technologies that reduce unpaid care burdens.
- Collect sex-disaggregated data and track outcomes such as women's income control, reduced time poverty, and leadership roles.
- Apply safeguards, including gender-based violence risk mitigation and accessible grievance mechanisms.

Conclusion

The gender analyses from Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam converge on a common finding: gender inequality is a central driver of climate vulnerability, while gender equality is a powerful catalyst for resilient and inclusive adaptation. Women and men contribute different but complementary capacities to managing land, water, biodiversity, and livelihoods. By addressing structural barriers and enabling women's leadership, Locally Led Adaptation can deliver not only stronger climate outcomes, but also lasting gains in economic empowerment, social inclusion, and community resilience.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Levels 1, 2 & 5 Bali Tower, 318 Toorak Road
P. O. Box 2109 Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji

6 February 2026

Mr. Mikko Ollikainen
Head of the Adaptation Fund
1899 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, USA
By Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org

Dear Mr Ollikainen

Re: Endorsement for the Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and the Pacific

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ('Ministry'), as the Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund (AF) in Fiji, confirms that the above regional programme proposal is in accordance with the Government's regional priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Asia and Pacific.

The programme is broadly aligned with Fiji's national adaptation priorities and community-based resilience objectives by strengthening locally led climate adaptation and resilience-building efforts of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Accordingly, Fiji is pleased to endorse the above programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the programme will be implemented and executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Sincerely,


Dr. Sivendra Michael
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change



KEMENTERIAN SUMBER ASLI DAN KELESTARIAN ALAM
(Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability)
Parcel F, Blok F11, Kompleks F
Lebuh Perdana Timur, Presint 1
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan
62000 PUTRAJAYA
MALAYSIA

Tel : +603-8000 8000
Portal Rasmi : www.nres.gov.my

Our Reference : NRES.700-7/1/7 (12)(S)

Date : 30 January 2026

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

ENDORSEMENT FOR "LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION GRANTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME IN ASIA AND PACIFIC"

With references to the above matter.

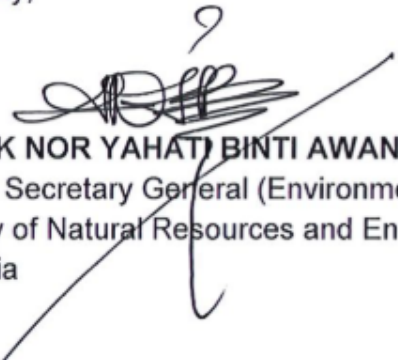
2. In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Malaysia, I confirm that the above project proposal is in accordance with my government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Malaysia and was discussed with relevant stakeholders.

3. Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the preparation of the proposal will be supported by and the project will be implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the UNDP Country Office in Malaysia.

4. For the avoidance of doubt, this endorsement does not create any obligation on the part of the Government of Malaysia with respect to legal or financial actions.

Thank you

Sincerely,


(DATUK NOR YAHATI BINTI AWANG)

Deputy Secretary General (Environmental Sustainability)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
Malaysia

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
Male', Republic of Maldives



Date: 4 June 2026

No: 1139-CCD/PRIV/2026/44

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

Sub: Endorsement Letter for “Locally led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and the Pacific”

To whom it may concern,

In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Maldives, I confirm that the above regional programme proposal is in accordance with the Government's regional priorities for implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks posed by, climate change in the Asia and Pacific region.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the programme will be implemented and executed by the United Nations Development Programme.

Sincerely,

Amjad Abdulla,
Director General,
Climate Change Department



**Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management &
Meteorology (MECDM)
P O Box 21, Honiara
Phone: +677 24101/23031**

Date: 21 January 2026

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

Subject: Endorsement for the “Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific”

In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in the Solomon Islands, I confirm that the above regional project/programme proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Solomon Islands.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project/programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project/programme will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the UNDP Country Office in the Solomon Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Hiba'.

David Hiba Hiriasia
Permanent Secretary

**Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and
Meteorology (MECDM)**



පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය
சுற்றுடல் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Environment

"සොබාදාම පියා", අං. 416/සී/1, රොබට් ගුනවර්ධන මාවත, වත්තරාමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
"சொபாடம் பியா", இல. 416/சி/1, ரொபர்ட் குணவர்தன மாவத்தை, வத்தராமுல்லை, இலங்கை.
"Sobadam Piya", No. 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
Gen. Tel. +94-11-2034100

ලේකම්
செயலாளர்
Secretary
+94-11-2034121

ෆැක්ස්
தொலை நகல்
Fax
+94-11-2879944

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல
My No

ENV/CC/04/04/01/02/01-LLA

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல
Your No

දිනය
திகதி
Date

29.01.2026

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

Letter of Endorsement by the Government of Sri Lanka
"Locally Led Adaptation Grants Programme for Indigenous People and Local Communities in Asia and Pacific"

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. Upon approval, the project will be implemented by UNDP and executed by the UNDP Country Office in Sri Lanka.

Sincerely,

K. R. Uduwawala
Secretary

"මේ පොදාලට සහ ගනනොළ මිනිසාට මෙන්ම අනෙක් වයාසර්න සියොතුන්ට ද මිනිමත සර්න සිවුපාටුන්ට ද සියලු සතුන්ට ද එකම අයිතිය"
"இது மூர்ப்பு, பறக்கும் பறவைகளும் மனிதனுக்கும் போன்றே எனில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகளாகும், மூர்ப்பில் வாழும் உயிர்வாழ்க்கைகளாகும். இவைத்து விவசாயங்களாகும் ஒன்றுதான் சொந்தமானது"
"This great earth and the flora on it equally belong to the man and the birds flying in the sky, the quadrupeds and all creatures living on earth"



**MONGOLIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Government Building 12, Builder's Square,
Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar 15170, MONGOLIA
Tel: (976-51) 26 61 71, E-mail: contact@mecc.gov.mn,
Website: www.mecc.gov.mn

Date 2026. Jul. 06
Ref. 05a/3929

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

Letter of Endorsement by Government

Subject: Endorsement for "Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific".

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by UNDP.

Sincerely,

MS. ARIUNTUYA DORJSUREN
DIRECTOR GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1526090193



Sr. Joint Secretary (CC)

D.O No. 1(3)/UNDP LLA/2026/SO CC

Government of Pakistan

Ministry of Climate Change and

Environmental Coordination

LG&RD Complex, Second Floor, sector

G-5/2, Islamabad.

(Ph: 051-9204796)

Islamabad, the 6th July 2026

To
Adaptation Fund Board
C/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email : Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 2025223240/5

SUBJECT: Endorsement for “Programme for Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Asia and the Pacific”

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the programme will be implemented and executed by the United Nations Development Programme.

Muhammad Ijaz Ghani

(Primary Focal Point for AF Pakistan)

Copy for information to:

- i. PS to Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Islamabad
- ii. PS to Additional Secretary-II, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- iii. Deputy Secretary (CC), Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Islamabad.
- iv. Ms Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, Pakistan



ADAPTATION FUND

Letter of Endorsement by Government

Ha Noi, 06 July 2026

The Adaptation Fund Board

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

Endorsement for the regional programme proposal titled “Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific”

The regional programme titled “Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific” has been developed by the Provincial People’s Committee of Quang Tri in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The objective of the project is to enhance the climate resilience and food security of climate vulnerable groups and local communities in one province in Viet Nam through locally led, landscape-based adaptation planning, financing, and implementation in Quang Tri province.

On behalf of Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, in my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Viet Nam, I hereby confirm that the regional programme proposal titled “Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific” aligns fully with the priorities of the Government of Viet Nam in strengthening the climate change adaptive capacity.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above programme proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the programme will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and executed by the United Nations Development Programme.

Yours sincerely,



Nguyễn Tuan Quang
Deputy Director General
Department of Climate Change
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Viet Nam

Cc:

- Provincial People’s Committee of Quang Tri;
- UNDP in Viet Nam.



Revised PFG Submission Form¹ (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 08/14/2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID: AF00000522

Country/ies: Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

Title of Project/Programme: Locally-Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific

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

Implementing Entity: UNDP

Executing Entity/ies: UNDP

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	1 November 2026
Completion date of PFG	1 November 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)

Regular PFG

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note²
1. Consultancies and contracts to develop program and/or project options.	Fully developed proposal in compliance with AF policies, including a Theory of Change	26,000	Consultancy fees (USD 650*40 days)
2. Local consultations, and/or workshops to discuss the specific project and program ideas (including translation into local	Report documenting the comprehensive consultative process carried out, including the a) the list of stakeholders already consulted (principles of	148,546	USD 18,568.25 for each of the 8 countries to organize consultations to discuss and deliver the output described. The amount for this

¹ As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

² The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

languages, preparation of background papers, etc).	choice, role ascription, date of consultation), b) a description of the consultation techniques (tailored specifically per target group), c) the key consultation findings (in particular suggestions and concerns raised), as well as: - Detailed explanation on compliance of the programme with national technical standards - Detailed explanation on compliance of the Programme with relevant regional, national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments - Detailed explanation on linkages and synergies of the Programme with all relevant initiatives, describing areas of overlap and complementarity		activity is not enough under the regular PFG and needs to be complemented by the additional PFG table below
IE management fee	Oversight provided on the Fully Developed Proposal development	17,454	10% of USD 174,545
Total Regular Project Formulation Grant		192,000	

Additional PFG

Additional amount is required due to the high number of countries covered. This extra allocation will allow for proper consultation process and stakeholder engagement for the design of project activities to enable devolving decision making at the local level in all participating countries.

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note ³
1. Local consultations, and/or workshops to discuss the specific project and program ideas (including translation into local languages, preparation of background papers, etc).	Report documenting the comprehensive consultative process carried out, including the a) the list of stakeholders already consulted (principles of choice, role ascription, date of consultation), b) a description of the consultation techniques (tailored specifically per target group), c) the key consultation findings (in particular suggestions and concerns raised), as well as: - Detailed explanation on compliance of the programme with national technical standards - Detailed explanation on compliance of the Programme with relevant regional, national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments	72,727	USD 9,090.875 for each of the 8 countries to organize consultations to discuss and deliver the output described. This amount is the complement necessary to reach the minimum to cover the consultation process in all countries. In total (regular PFG + additional PFG), this consultation process will cost USD 221,273 for the 8 countries.

³ The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

	- Detailed explanation on linkages and synergies of the Programme with all relevant initiatives, describing areas of overlap and complementarity		
IE management fee	Oversight and coordination provided on the consultation process	7,273	10% of USD 72,727
Total Additional Project Formulation Grant		80,000	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

1. Consultant to remotely coordinate the development of the Fully Developed Proposal:

A consultant will be engaged to draft the fully developed proposal Note and coordinate with national and regional stakeholders. This will ensure that stakeholders' needs and expectations are aligned with Adaptation Fund Operational Policies and Guidelines. The proposed budget allocates 40 working days at a daily rate of USD 650.

2. Initial consultative process with key stakeholders of the programme at Regional, National and Local levels:

In collaboration with the consultant and the oversight team and its Country Offices, UNDP will organize a comprehensive gender-responsive consultative process with key stakeholders at regional, national, and local levels. This process will involve existing Small Grants Programme National Steering Committees in participating countries, which include a majority of non-governmental representatives and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Consultations will also include governments, private sector actors, CSOs, and academic institutions. Given the emphasis on Indigenous Peoples, these consultations will ensure that IPs and LCs interests and concerns are fully integrated into the Fully Developed Proposal design.

For LLA Projects only:

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

Under PFG Activity 2, and in collaboration with the consultant, the oversight team, and UNDP Country Offices, UNDP will convene a comprehensive, gender-responsive consultative process with stakeholders at regional, national, and local levels. This process will draw on the existing Small Grants Programme (SGP)

National Steering Committees (NSCs) in participating countries, which comprise a majority of non-governmental representatives, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs). Additional consultations will involve relevant government counterparts, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and academic institutions.

Given the Programme's strong focus on Indigenous Peoples, the consultation process will ensure that IP and LC priorities, knowledge, and concerns directly inform the design of the Fully Developed Proposal and the formulation of the Landscape Adaptation Programmes (LAPs). Based on SGP operational experience, an average allocation of USD 27,659.125 per country is proposed in total to support NSC meetings across the eight participating countries.

These consultations are critical to operationalizing the LLA Principles, particularly the devolvement of decision making to the lowest appropriate level. Through their structured participation in NSCs and targeted local consultations, IPs and LCs will be able to influence the definition, prioritization, and design of proposed adaptation interventions, as well as the modalities for direct access to grant financing for locally led initiatives. Early engagement at the Fully Developed Proposal stage will support inclusive identification and co-design of LAPs in each targeted landscape and will ensure that LAP design incorporates monitoring indicators and targets defined by IPs and LCs themselves to track progress and assess success.

C. Implementing Entity

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

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Nancy Bennet, Director, Quality and Impact Hub, Executive Coordinator, Vertical Funds, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), UNDP			Ms. Diana Salvemini, Global Technical Advisor on Local Action	+12129065094	diana.salvemini@undp.org

United Nations Development Programme



*Empowered lives
Resilient nations*

3 March 2026

Subject: Implementation and Management Arrangements for the Project “Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific”

Dear Mr. Ollikainen,

Reference is made to the funding proposal submitted by UNDP for consideration by the Adaptation Fund Board under the regional funding windows for the initiative “Locally Led Adaptation Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Programme in Asia and Pacific”.

This global project will be implemented by UNDP through the Direct Implementation Modality. The UNDP Direct Implementation Modality is a regular practice applied for UNDP global and regional projects and programmes where more than one beneficiary country is engaged and where a strong global/regional coordination effort and leadership is required. The project implementation will be led by the UNDP Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) Planet Hub with on-the-ground support from UNDP Country Offices in beneficiary countries. A regional project coordination mechanism will be established within UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. There is a full understanding among the beneficiary countries which have expressed an interest in joining the Programme regarding the proposed UNDP Direct Implementation Modality.

The regional programme proposal indicates project execution costs at the level of 3% of the total project budget. While this exceeds the 1.5% cap set by the Adaptation Fund Board for initiatives implemented and executed by the same Implementing Entity, the request is made on an exceptional basis in line with item (b) iii of Decision B.38/42. Please note that this additional 1.5 % is being driven by minimal costs for admin and programme management support personnel, while travel costs, site visits for safeguards and other monitoring, technical assistance are folded into the project component costs, as per AF policy.

Indeed, the higher execution costs of the Programme are justified by its intensive, hands-on design and the comprehensive support required at both local and national levels at the operational level. Key contributing factors include the need for continuous engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities organizations across the beneficiary countries. This entails operational and administrative backstopping, and real-time, in-country problem-solving, all requiring a significant operational budget.

Operational demands are further intensified by the complex nature of financial and administrative transactions with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, such as grant disbursement and procurement processes. The establishment and maintenance of both global, regional and national management units, with a minimal portion of the operational costs charged to PEC are essential to ensure proper coordination, transparency and accountability, adding further to execution costs.

The proposed Programme Execution Costs are fully aligned with its operational needs. We would like to reconfirm that the estimated Programme Execution Costs cover the costs attributed solely to this project management. The proposed programme management resources are important to secure effective execution of this global project, knowledge management, and delivery of local adaptation benefits sought from this Programme.

03-Mar-2026

With kind regards,

DocuSigned by:

Nancy Bennet

4EEAD45A5FE9433...

Nancy Bennet

Executive Coordinator

Vertical Funds Programme Support

Oversight and Compliance Hub

Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)

Global Policy Network

UNDP

Mr. Mikko Ollikainen
Head, Adaptation Fund
Washington, D.C.

Annex 1: Synthesis of preliminary gender analyses carried out in all participating countries

Across all countries, the analyses show that gender equality is not a secondary consideration but a core determinant of climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity. Women and men experience climate risks differently because of socially defined roles, unequal access to resources, and differences in decision-making power. At the same time, they possess complementary knowledge and skills that are essential for effective adaptation.

Women Face Greater Climate Burdens, but Also Hold Critical Knowledge: Women are often responsible for food production, water collection, household health, and caregiving. Climate change increases these responsibilities by reducing crop yields, drying water sources, and intensifying disasters.

- In Fiji, women manage home gardens, preserve seeds, and care for children and elders during cyclones. When saltwater intrusion damages crops, women must work harder to maintain family nutrition.
- In Maldives, women are concentrated in lower-value or post-harvest roles with limited access to managerial positions.
- In Sri Lanka, women in drought-prone districts spend more time collecting water and often eat less so children can eat during climate-induced food shortages.
- In Pakistan, rural women perform much of the agricultural and livestock labor while also collecting water and fuelwood under increasingly harsh conditions.
- In Solomon Islands women play a central role in subsistence agriculture, household food security, water management, and small-scale fisheries, and possess extensive indigenous knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem stewardship. As climate change intensifies water scarcity, food insecurity, and coastal degradation, women face growing burdens while remaining key actors in community-based adaptation and resilience-building.
- In Mongolia, women process dairy, care for young animals, and manage household finances during drought and dzud.
- In Malaysia, Indigenous women lead community mapping, seed conservation, and biodiversity restoration.
- In Vietnam, women hold extensive local and traditional knowledge related to seed selection, diversified cropping systems, soil fertility management, nontimber forest products, household water management, and food storage.

These examples demonstrate that women are not simply vulnerable beneficiaries; they are custodians of practical ecological knowledge and frontline managers of resilience.

Men Experience Different Climate Risks and Possess Distinct Capabilities: Men are more likely to be involved in commercial agriculture, fishing, herding, forestry, and wage labor. Climate shocks can result in sudden income loss, increased stress, and migration.

- In Fiji and Pakistan, men often negotiate land use and market access but may lose income after floods or droughts.
- In Sri Lanka, men dominate irrigation committees and farmer organizations, shaping which adaptation investments are prioritized.
- In Maldives, men dominate physically intensive activities (e.g. aquaculture infrastructure),
- In Mongolia, men are responsible for long-distance livestock movements and negotiating access to pasture and water.
- In Malaysia, men are more represented in formal community leadership and natural resource governance.
- In Vietnam, men are more likely to control productive assets and participate in governance institutions.

Structural Gender Inequalities Limit Adaptive Capacity: The country analyses consistently identify structural barriers that prevent women from fully participating in and benefiting from climate action.

Unequal Access to Assets and Finance: Women often lack land ownership, collateral, and access to formal banking, extension services, and insurance.

- In Pakistan, women perform approximately three-quarters of agricultural labor but rarely own land.
- In Sri Lanka, personal and customary laws can restrict women's ownership and inheritance rights.

- In Fiji, women have land use rights through customary systems but limited influence over leasing and major land decisions.
- In Mongolia and Malaysia, women face difficulties accessing credit and climate information because of mobility and time constraints.
- In Maldives, women have limited access to finance, land and productive assets.
- In Vietnam, women are under-represented on climate finance mechanisms and local decision-making bodies.

As a result, women frequently rely on informal lenders or are excluded from investment opportunities.

Time Poverty and Unpaid Care Work: Women carry a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic and caregiving responsibilities.

- Sri Lanka's Time Use Survey shows women spend substantially more time than men on unpaid work.
- In Mongolia, women spend roughly one-fifth of the day on unpaid care compared with less than half that for men.
- In Maldives, women play a primary role in household water management where scarcity increases unpaid labour burdens reduces time for economic participation, impacts household health and food security.
- In Vietnam, women do 3-5 times more unpaid care work than men, limiting time for participation in collective action.
- Similar patterns are reported across Fiji, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

This "time poverty" limits women's ability to attend training, participate in meetings, or manage businesses.

Limited Voice in Decision-Making: Traditional and formal institutions remain largely male-dominated.

- In Fiji, customary chiefly structures shape land and resource decisions.
- In Pakistan, local governance and extension systems often engage primarily with men.
- In Malaysia and Mongolia, women's presence does not always translate into real influence.
- In Sri Lanka, women are central to food and water management but are often absent from planning bodies.
- In Maldives, women's participation in local governance and island-level decision-making processes remains limited.
- In Vietnam, women's representation declines sharply at sub national levels (below 20% in rural areas, particularly in land management boards, forest protection committees, and local disaster risk management structures).

Locally Led Adaptation as a Pathway to Transformative Change

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) offers a practical mechanism to address these structural barriers and shift power and resources closer to communities.

Women as Leaders and Innovators: LLA can enable women to move from being viewed as vulnerable recipients to recognized leaders of adaptation. Examples include:

- Women-led mangrove restoration and climate finance committees in Fiji.
- Estate-sector women receiving simplified grants for drought-resilient home gardens in Sri Lanka.
- In Maldives, women have been expressly targeted for training and livelihood programmes, and participation mechanisms have been devised to increase women's engagement.
- Rural women in Pakistan accessing climate finance for clean energy, livestock, and water-saving technologies.
- Female herders in Mongolia investing in fodder enterprises and renewable energy.
- Indigenous women in Malaysia leading biodiversity conservation and sustainable enterprises.
- In Vietnam, younger women, in particular, show growing engagement in digital platforms, producer groups, and value chain innovation, indicating strong potential for transformative change when structural barriers are addressed.

Reducing Workloads and Increasing Economic Autonomy: Gender-responsive adaptation promotes technologies and enterprises that save time and improve incomes, such as rainwater harvesting, clean cookstoves, efficient irrigation, dairy processing, and eco-tourism. For example, a Pakistani woman who adopts a solar water pump and improved cookstove can reduce hours spent

collecting fuel and water while improving health and productivity.

Engaging Men and Youth: Transformative change requires working with men and boys as allies. Shared caregiving responsibilities and joint decision-making reduce backlash and strengthen household resilience. Youth contribute digital skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship across all countries.

Safeguards and Gender-Based Violence Prevention: Climate shocks can increase risks of gender-based violence, especially during displacement and economic stress. Programmes must ensure safe participation, confidential grievance systems, and safeguards that prevent unintended harm.

Programme Design Implications

Across all countries, effective gender-responsive LLA should:

- Ensure meaningful participation and leadership of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.
- Use simplified, accessible grant mechanisms for women-led initiatives.
- Provide tailored capacity building, mentoring, and leadership training.
- Recognize and integrate women's and men's traditional ecological knowledge.
- Invest in labor-saving technologies that reduce unpaid care burdens.
- Collect sex-disaggregated data and track outcomes such as women's income control, reduced time poverty, and leadership roles.
- Apply safeguards, including gender-based violence risk mitigation and accessible grievance mechanisms.

Conclusion

The gender analyses from Fiji, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam converge on a common finding: gender inequality is a central driver of climate vulnerability, while gender equality is a powerful catalyst for resilient and inclusive adaptation. Women and men contribute different but complementary capacities to managing land, water, biodiversity, and livelihoods. By addressing structural barriers and enabling women's leadership, Locally Led Adaptation can deliver not only stronger climate outcomes, but also lasting gains in economic empowerment, social inclusion, and community resilience.

Initial Consultation Report

Given the demand-driven nature of this regional programme, consultations occur at two different points in time, in general: 1) pre-submission of this proposal i.e. during project concept and full proposal development, and 2) at the onset of programme implementation as part of LAP scoping and development in each country.

At national levels, initial consultations with relevant stakeholders took place to explain this regional programme concept – the landscape approach and participatory methods, the funding mechanism, the role of the NLAC (NSC, adapted), regional coordination for knowledge, technical assistance, etc. Stakeholders met and key findings from these consultations are summarized in the table below. All consultations were gender-responsive, and included dedicated engagement with women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups. Comprehensive consultations will be carried out upon endorsement of the Concept Note, and as part of the fully developed proposal development. This will include consultations *at the regional level*. Tentative institutions to be consulted include the International Land Coalition, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, CIFOR-ICRAF).

Consultations at the onset of Programme implementation will occur at global and regional level, as well as in each country in relation to the selected landscape as part of LAP scoping and development.

At landscape level, with the proposed landscape approach (LAP development and implementation), local landscape stakeholders will identify at the onset of implementation the landscape they will manage. Consultations with local stakeholders in the landscape will therefore take place at the very beginning of project implementation i.e. as part of landscape identification and confirmation. A practical protocol for these consultations will be made available once the overall regional programme starts.

Once the National Landscape Adaptation Committees (NLACs) – comprised of representatives of key stakeholder groups, including Designated Authorities, UNDP, NIEs whenever possible, and other relevant institutions and NGOs, as appropriate, including women's organizations and other vulnerable groups – have selected the candidate landscapes in which to work, National Coordinators will liaise with target landscapes' communities to first raise awareness about a potential landscape programme and confirm local stakeholder interest. Once interest has been firmly established, NCs will then organize formal gender-responsive consultations involving all landscape communities and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as part of a workshop in which they will identify and voice climate impact vulnerabilities and sustainable development priorities. In the workshop, stakeholders, including women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups, will set desired adaptation outcomes for the programme in the landscape and will identify and analyze the outputs and activities needed to achieve the outcomes. The workshop participants will then develop a LAP in which they prioritize the activities and analyse how, when and by whom the activities will be carried out, what the cost estimates might be, what they might learn from implementation of the different activities, what capacities might be needed to effectively implement them, etc. With the knowledge and information from this planning process, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will then select those activities that they want to implement and formulate proposals for grant financing with the assistance of the National Coordinators or others.

In the workshop, eligibility criteria for grant proposals will be discussed in detail. These will include reference to both the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and its Gender Policy, as well as country and landscape-specific criteria adopted by the NLAC itself. The local consultations will be

documented as part of the workshop report. Minutes or notes from each consultation will be kept, including a list of stakeholders consulted (principles of choice, role, dates), a description of the consultation techniques (bilateral discussion, FGD), and key findings from the consultations with any concerns, conclusions, or next steps.

At national level, further consultations will be carried out during and after landscape selection with relevant stakeholders and authorities, including land use and other ministries, NGOs, academic institutions, local and provincial governments, potential private sector partners, and others. These consultations are gender-responsive and prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized for support in enhancing their resilience to climate change impacts. These consultations may take place through bilateral discussions or in workshop settings or focus groups.

In general, all institutions are expected to be interested in the participatory approach to be followed for LAP development and implementation, as well as support for the programme in terms of information and knowledge sharing, as well as potential coordination or collaboration at country level. Country level representatives from these institutions, where they exist, are also posited as potential members of the National Landscape Adaptation Committees. The institutional representatives listed in the table will also receive periodic briefings on programme performance.

Regional consultations follow the same pattern as the consultations at global level, though now with a focus on regionally relevant institutions and organizations. In particular, gender-responsiveness of LAP development and implementation will be highlighted as will the programme's preferential focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups in the selected landscapes. As above, the institutions are expected to be interested in the participatory approach to be followed and in the exchange of knowledge and information during project implementation. Potential coordination or collaboration at country level will also be discussed with these regional entities, but it is expected that for it to effectively occur, it will have to be negotiated separately in each country.

National stakeholders consulted (with dates and consultation techniques)	Key consultation findings
<u>Fiji</u>	
Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment (11 March 2026, bilateral meeting with senior environment officers)	Confirmed alignment of the Programme with the National Adaptation Plan, Climate Change Act 2021, National Climate Change Policy 2018–2030, and NDC 3.0 priorities. Participants emphasized integration with climate data, early warning services, monitoring systems, and provincial planning, while strongly supporting the approach for vulnerable rural and coastal communities. They stressed the need for vertical integration so local actions inform national planning and reporting. Recommendations included aligning indicators with NAP monitoring frameworks, incorporating climate services and early warning systems, and coordinating with existing adaptation and disaster risk reduction programmes. Strong support was expressed for nature-based solutions, including mangrove, reef, and watershed restoration, alongside community preparedness and anticipatory action. Concerns included duplication with existing initiatives, sustainability beyond grant periods, and limited local capacity. Agreed next steps included continued consultations, technical review of draft documents, and alignment with national monitoring, reporting, and verification systems.
Ministry of Itaukei Affairs (Indigenous culture and lands)	The programme emphasized community-led adaptation within customary land and marine tenure systems, using grants to finance locally identified

(18 March 2026, bilateral meeting with Permanent Secretary, Provincial Officer) NGO representative	priorities. The Ministry's role includes coordinating with provincial, village, and traditional governance systems while ensuring cultural protocols and Indigenous governance are respected. Participants strongly supported Indigenous-led adaptation, integration of traditional knowledge, and respect for customary tenure. Recommendations included implementing through provincial and tikina structures, applying FPIC, strengthening Indigenous institutions, and prioritizing remote and vulnerable communities. They also stressed inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Concerns focused on bypassing traditional governance, unequal benefit distribution, and limited local capacity. Agreed next steps included close collaboration with the Ministry, use of existing systems for mobilization and monitoring, and safeguards to ensure cultural appropriateness, inclusion, and community ownership.
<u>Malaysia</u>	
Indigenous Community Representative of Kampung Chang Lama Sungai Gepai, Bidor, Perak (24 April 2026, bilateral meeting)	Community recognizes the need to conserve their land through mapping customary areas and documentation of traditional knowledge, including key ecological and cultural sites. While some support is provided, challenges remain such as limited capacity to use technology, ineffective infrastructure (e.g. water systems), water contamination, and land insecurity. Communities have taken their own initiatives to protect forests and resources but still face financial and technical constraints. This project will help strengthen community-led conservation by combining traditional knowledge with modern solutions, providing the necessary technical assistance in improving resource management, enhancing climate resilience, and equipment to support these efforts.
Biodiversity Management Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability of Malaysia (NRES) (7 May 2026)	Participants shared updates on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in Malaysia, including its alignment with Target 14 of the National Policy on Biological Diversity. They discussed how ABS principles apply to the Small Grants Programme and Locally Led Adaptation projects, particularly regarding traditional knowledge, equitable benefit-sharing, and prevention of biopiracy. The Forest Research Institute Malaysia, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, has received government funding to document Indigenous and local communities' traditional knowledge in collaboration with the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division of the Ministry of Health. Participants recommended integrating ABS awareness into LLA communication and outreach activities, including guidance on roles, procedures, and compliance requirements for communities and organizations. They also initiated discussions on developing a framework for Malaysia's Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Action Plan.
NBS Nature Based Solutions Malaysia (Start-up focused on development of green financing for protection of forests in Peninsular Malaysia) (27 April 2026, bilateral meeting)	Communities differ locally, but face common issues in land rights, cultural identity, and livelihoods. Land access and approvals are inconsistent, often informal, and depend on authorities. Use climate/environment signals (e.g. land conversion, forest loss) alongside community knowledge to prioritize landscapes. NGOs/civil society are key to bridge gaps, support communities, and enable implementation. Build livelihoods, capacity, and long-term financing to ensure lasting impact.

Consultations with NGOs/CBOs: Malaysian Nature Society, Save Rivers, PACOS Trust, Friends of Nature Activists Society (27 April 2026, bilateral meetings)	Participants emphasized selecting landscapes based on ecological significance and active community engagement, highlighting priority areas in Sarawak, Sabah, Kelantan, Pahang, and Johor affected by logging, mining, erosion, and pollution. A multi-landscape approach was recommended to reflect Malaysia's ecological and social diversity. Traditional food systems, including rotational farming and hill paddy, were identified as climate-resilient but threatened by land conversion, environmental degradation, and weak market access. Community-led solutions such as gravity-fed water systems and agroecological farming were seen as practical but limited by weak support and supply chains. Participants also noted gaps in climate data, research, and NGO presence, especially in Sarawak. Strong support was expressed for defining landscapes through ecological systems while ensuring compatibility with governance structures, direct community engagement, and support for traditional knowledge and customary governance. Communities in Banjaran Titiwangsa were identified as priorities due to drought, pollution, and declining water catchments. Participants stressed land rights, protection of water catchments and natural resources, community mapping, and awareness of land laws. The programme should strengthen existing farming systems through improved productivity, technology, and climate resilience, supported by partnerships with universities and organizations.
Small Grant Programme National Steering Committee members, including Center for Orang Asli Concerns, Academia, government (27-29 April 2026, bilateral discussions)	Consultations with National Steering Committee members, independent experts, and the Centre for Orang Asli Concerns emphasized a rigorous, data-driven approach to landscape selection based on climate risks, food security impacts, and spatial assessments such as flood, erosion, and sea-level rise maps. Participants recommended selecting diverse ecosystems—including forest, lowland, coastal, and urban areas—to capture varied adaptation strategies and avoid duplication. Stakeholders stressed prioritizing community-led adaptation, with food systems as part of a broader resilience framework. They highlighted combining Indigenous knowledge with scientific data, supporting locally led adaptation planning and monitoring, and promoting innovative climate-resilient livelihoods. Recommendations also included expanding technical expertise within governance groups and strengthening knowledge-sharing among communities and partners.
<u>Maldives</u>	
Consultation with local NGOs: Aminath Abdulla, Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS); Hassan Abdul Gayyoom, Icons Association; Abdul Azeez, Fonadhoo Environment and Sustainable Development (FESD) (30 April 2026, FGD)	Participants discussed criteria for selecting project sites in the Maldives, noting that while the country is a single landscape, priority should go to accessible islands with domestic airports and strong development potential. They cautioned against targeting areas such as Fuvahmulah, where existing grant funding may limit added value. Participants emphasized defining landscapes by shared climate vulnerabilities rather than administrative boundaries to better target vulnerable islands. UNDP noted that the LLM fund will focus on climate adaptation through ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient agriculture, and water and forest management, addressing gaps in adaptation finance. Participants also stressed using recent survey data on extreme weather impacts on marginalized groups, especially women and youth, to ensure social inclusion in project design and implementation.

Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy: Ahmed Waheed, Director, Climate Change Department; Thibyan Ibrahim, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department; Fathimath Zaina Shareef, Principal Environment Management Officer, Climate Change Department (3 May 2026, bilateral meeting)	Waheed emphasized the value of aligning the project with the Small Grants Programme framework while exploring innovative approaches that allow greater flexibility and more direct engagement with youth. Thibyan highlighted potential technical interventions, particularly climate-smart agriculture such as vertical farming and home gardening to strengthen food security. The Ministry stressed that all interventions should align fully with Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3 targets and national climate strategies. The UNDP team confirmed that these priorities are already being integrated into project design. As the project remains at the concept stage, there is still flexibility to refine funding allocations and further define geographic and thematic priorities, such as focusing on water-scarce islands.
<u>Mongolia</u>	
Focus Group Discussion with 17 individuals representing Civil society and non-governmental organizations; Ministry of Nature and Climate Change; National government institutions responsible for climate adaptation; Academia and research institutes; Members of the SGP National Steering Committee (28 April 2026).	Participants emphasized that collective action is essential for successful adaptation. Herders have organized groups to manage seasonal mobility and shared resources, with access to pasture and fodder identified as key livelihood concerns. Participants stressed combining traditional knowledge with modern technologies and ensuring adaptation is driven by community priorities. Water and land management emerged as major priorities, alongside inclusive approaches addressing the vulnerabilities of women, children, older people, and poor households. Recommendations included starting with small pilot initiatives, scaling up successful models, building on existing efforts, avoiding duplication, and working through local leaders and community institutions. Overall, participants strongly supported a locally led, participatory landscape approach to climate adaptation.
<u>Pakistan</u>	
Civil society organizations, community-based groups, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), academia, technical experts, and practitioners (FGDs, KIIs, and household-level engagements in Balochistan (11 December 2025; 9-12 March 2026); Punjab (5-9 January 2026); Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (3-5 December 2025, 15 December 2025); Sindh (30 December 2025-4 January, 2026; Northern Region (14-15 April 2026))	Limited community engagement in natural resource management and reliance on state-led plantation efforts with minimal local ownership were identified as key constraints. Forest degradation, heightened wildfire risks due to accumulated biomass, and heavy dependence on fuelwood for heating and cooking. Recurrent flooding, waterlogging, and weak infrastructure significantly affecting agricultural productivity and livelihood stability, compounded by limited institutional presence and access to technical support for climate-resilient practices. Communities emphasized importance of crop diversity, livestock systems, forest resources, and water availability in sustaining livelihoods. Women consistently highlighted constraints related to land ownership, access to inputs, mobility, and participation in community and institutional processes. Highlighted strong demand for simplified, accessible, and locally responsive financing mechanisms. Several constraints to effective climate finance implementation include limited technical and institutional capacity at the local level, weak coordination between actors, and the risk of elite capture.
<u>Solomon Islands</u>	
Key government agencies and civil society organisations including Ministries of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; of Provincial	During the initial consultative process, stakeholders confirmed that the proposed project concept is strongly aligned with the Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy (2023–2032) and its priority adaptation focal areas. Participants highlighted that the project will effectively complement ongoing national initiatives designed to strengthen resilient community livelihoods, protect biodiversity, and harness ecosystem services within rural

Government and Institutional Strengthening; of Rural Development, of Fisheries and Marine Resources; of Forestry and Research; of National Planning and Development Coordination; of Agriculture and Livestock Development; of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration; Development Services Exchange; Worldwide Fund for Nature; The Nature Conservancy; Live & Learn (13 and 20 May 2026)	and remote island communities. Furthermore, the consultations identified key opportunities for operational synergy with existing grant mechanisms; specifically, stakeholders noted that the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the Gov4Res Project have been successfully supporting community-led climate adaptation and resilience actions through the provision of Small Grants and Low-Value Grants to established community-based organizations.
<u>Sri Lanka</u>	
Ministry of Environment and National Adaptation Advisory Committee (16 January 2026)	The programme should include local communities that, while not formally recognized as Indigenous, maintain strong cultural traditions and depend on forests and natural resources. Protecting cultural identity and traditional value systems should be treated as equally important as building climate resilience. It should also promote sustainable livelihoods and youth engagement to pass on these values and support climate-resilient income opportunities that reduce reliance on harmful practices. The Committee endorsed the programme, noting that strengthening the resilience of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is essential to Sri Lanka's adaptation goals. It also recommended considering other vulnerable groups and developing a clear, Sri Lanka-specific definition of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
Small Grant Programme National Steering Committee (18-19 May 2026)	The SGP NSC represents a majority of non-government representatives (NGOs/CBOs, academia). Institutions represented included Ministry of Environment (Environment policy and planning division, Environment Training and Project division, Natural Resources Management division, International Relations division, Marine Environmental Protection Authority), the International Water Management Institute (international NGO), CSOs (University of Peradeniya, University of Jaffna, Green Movement of Sri Lanka, Food First Information and Action Network of Sri Lanka, private Institution - MAS Holdings). NSC provided its consent, recognizing that strengthening the resilience of Indigenous and local communities is critical to achieving Sri Lanka's climate adaptation objectives. At the same time, the NSC advised that the programme should explore the inclusion of other potential vulnerable groups beyond the initially proposed landscapes and develop a clear, country specific definition of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), grounded in the Sri Lankan context.
Indigenous (Veddha) communities from Pollebadda, Dambana, and Rathugala, including community members, local leaders, and the Wanniyalaetto (traditional leader) (18-19 May 2026, FGD)	Participants identified a range of community driven and culturally appropriate adaptation options, including: Climate resilient agriculture (drought resistant crops, controlled environment farming, organic practices, agroforestry); Improved water management (wells, small-scale irrigation, rainwater harvesting); Livelihood diversification (poultry, dairy, value-added forest products, community based eco and cultural tourism); Capacity and skills development for youth and women (self-employment, entrepreneurship, and trades); Cultural revitalization through documentation and intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledge; Strengthening community institutions and producer groups to support collective adaptation planning; and Promotion of women and youth engagement in agriculture, tourism and other income generating activities.

Movement for National Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) (27 April 2026, bilateral meeting)	MONLAR noted its ongoing work with Indigenous groups to promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices and expressed interest in exploring collaboration to support programme implementation.)
<u>Viet Nam</u>	
Consultation with Small Grant Programme National Steering Committee Members representing a majority of non-government representatives (NGOs/CBOs, academia). Institutions included Faculty of Environment, Viet Nam National University, Vietnam Association of Forestry Science and Technology, Vietnam Forest Owner Association (Indigenous Peoples organization), Former Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, indigenous people, Institute of Natural Resources and Environment Development, Vietnam Association for Clean Water and Environment, Vietnam Environment and Protection Fund (25 May 2026, FGD)	<i>Broad-based, documented and policy-aligned stakeholder engagement:</i> The consultation convened a diverse and representative set of stakeholders, including national and provincial government authorities, the SGP NSC, UNDP, and mass organizations (e.g., Women's and Farmers' Unions)—demonstrating strong multi-level political buy-in. Stakeholder selection reflected AF requirements for inclusivity across governance levels and sectors relevant to landscape adaptation, and discussions confirmed clear alignment with national policies and provincial priorities in Quang Tri. <i>Participatory consultation with clear documentation of methods and inputs:</i> The consultation combined structured presentations on the LLA approach, participatory methods, funding modality, and institutional arrangements (including NLAC) with interactive multi-stakeholder and sector-specific discussions. Detailed minutes recorded participants, methods, and key technical inputs, ensuring traceability and compliance with AF requirements for pre-concept documentation. <i>Strong consensus on a locally led, landscape-based design with technical inputs:</i> Stakeholders endorsed the landscape approach and small grants modality, emphasizing community-driven, ecosystem-based solutions across forestry, fisheries, and agriculture. Recommendations covered priority interventions, governance, and resource allocation, showing strong readiness to support implementation financially and institutionally. <i>Evidence of gender responsiveness and inclusion of vulnerable groups:</i> The consultation included perspectives from the Women's Union and highlighted vulnerabilities of women and ethnic minority communities. Stakeholders proposed targeted measures such as women-led livelihoods, improved access to finance, and capacity building, demonstrating meaningful participation of marginalized groups in programme design, aligned with AF gender and inclusion requirements.