PROJECT

Río Blanco

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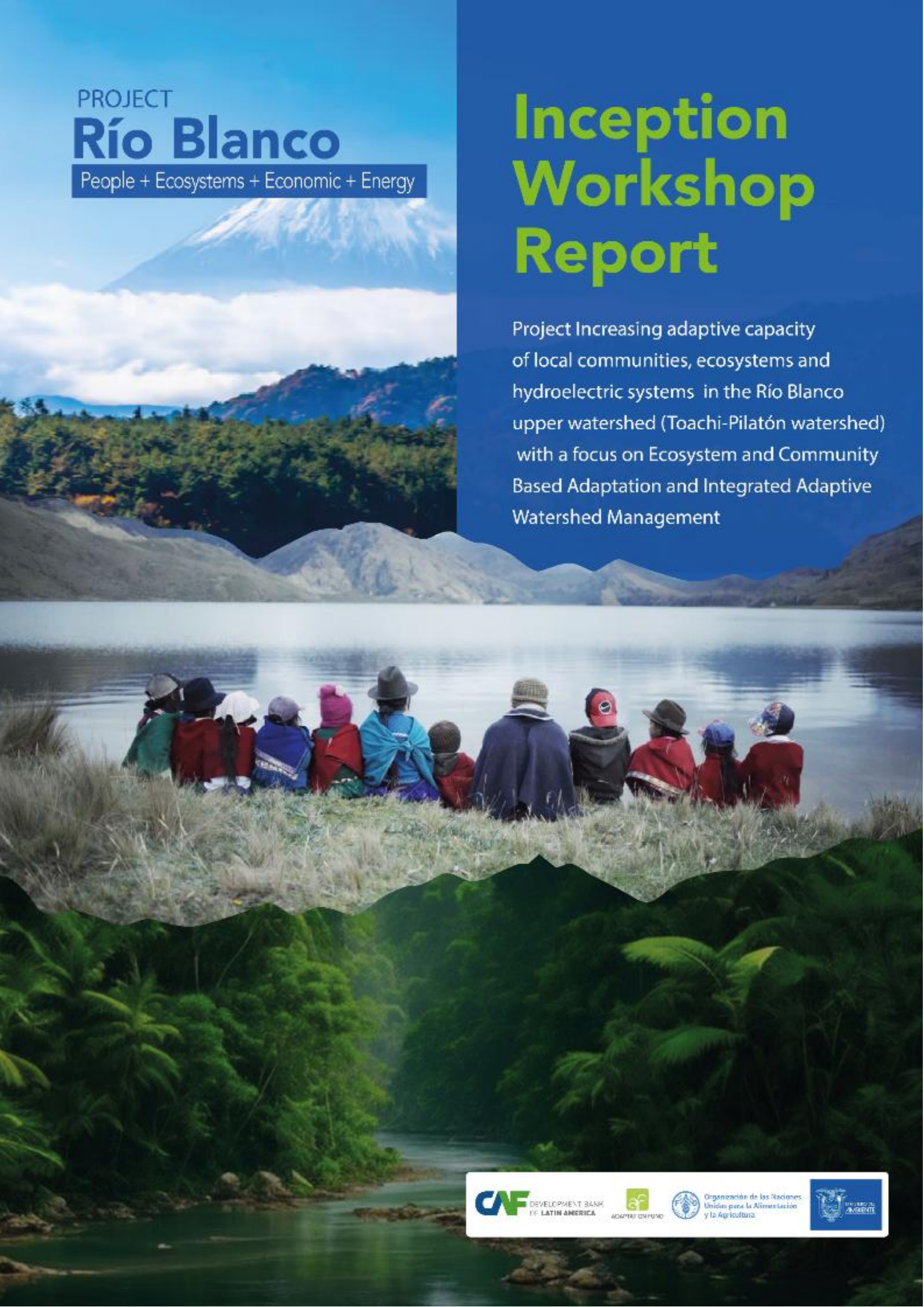
Inception Workshop Report

Project Increasing adaptive capacity of local communities, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed (Toachi-Pilatón watershed) with a focus on Ecosystem and Community Based Adaptation and Integrated Adaptive Watershed Management



Prepared by:	Project Team ECU/RIE/Rural/2016/1
	Increasing adaptive capacity of local communities, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed (Toachi-Pilatón watershed) with a focus on Ecosystem and Community Based Adaptation and Integrated Adaptive Watershed Management
Financed by:	Adaptation Fund
Implemented by:	CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
Executed by:	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Ecuador (MAE)
	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

December 2025

Inception Workshop Report

Proyecto ECU/RIE/Rural/2016/1:

"Increasing adaptive capacity of local communities, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed (Toachi-Pilatón watershed) with a focus on Ecosystem and Community Based Adaptation and Integrated Adaptive Watershed Management"

5 November 2025

Ecuador

2025

CONTENT

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAF	Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean
CELEC	Electricity Corporation of Ecuador
DRP	Participatory Rural Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIAS	Sustainable Environmental Investment Fund
GAD	Decentralized Autonomous Governments
GADPR	Rural Parish Decentralized Autonomous Governments
INAMHI	National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology
INIAP	National Institute of Agricultural Research
MAE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MAGP	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries
ONG	Non-Governmental Organization
ONU	United Nations
PAC	Annual Procurement Plan
PNRP	National Landscape Restoration Project
POA	Annual Operating Plan
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RedLAC	Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Environment and Energy implements the project "Increasing adaptive capacity of local communities, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed (Toachi-Pilatón) with a focus on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Community-based Adaptation (CbA), and adaptive watershed management," through CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean as the Implementing Entity and FAO as the executing partner, financed by the Adaptation Fund. The general objective of the project is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations, ecosystems, and the watershed hosting a hydroelectric system in the upper Río Blanco basin in the western foothills of the Andes, and to develop a climate change adaptation model that can be replicated in similar contexts within the country and the region.

The project aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations, ecosystems, and the watershed where a hydroelectric system operates in the upper Río Blanco basin, in the western foothills of the Andes. It seeks to develop a climate change adaptation model that is replicable at both national and regional levels, promoting sustainable natural resource management and increased resilience to climate impacts. This approach will allow integrating environmental conservation with local economic development.

The initiative will promote coordination mechanisms among multiple stakeholder's public and private institutions and local communities to implement adaptation strategies that generate sustainable socio-environmental benefits. Priority will be given to addressing the factors that aggravate vulnerability to climate change, creating economic and social opportunities for local populations, with a gender perspective. In the medium term, it is expected to improve watershed management conditions, conserve forest cover, and foster small-scale sustainable agriculture.

In the long term, the project aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of farmers and ecosystems, as well as to improve the hydrological regulation of the basins supplying hydroelectric systems. Farmers and their communities will play an active role as co-executors of the project, ensuring ownership of the results and the leveraging of local knowledge. Furthermore, experiences and lessons learned will be systematized to facilitate their replicability in other regions of the country and the Andean region.

The strategy is based on an integrated landscape management approach, focused on sustainable watershed management through agriculture, livestock, and forest conservation practices. Recognizing the close dependence of communities on ecosystem services, the project will promote sustainable conservation and production actions that reduce their climate vulnerability. Its structure is organized into three key components: (1) conservation of plant cover, (2) adaptation of agricultural practices and access to climate finance, and (3) capacity building and dissemination of lessons learned.

2. PROJECT INCEPTION WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Project Inception Workshop are detailed below:

General objective:

Promote dialogue to ensure that all stakeholders, including implementing partners, understand and agree on the project objectives, goals, and operational framework.

Specific objectives:

- Obtain inputs, feedback, and agreements regarding the project implementation strategy.
- Clarify the project scope based on the project documents and planning mechanisms.

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

3.1. Project General Information

Project Title	Increasing adaptive capacity of local communities, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed (Toachi-Pilatón watershed) with a focus on Ecosystem and Community Based Adaptation and Integrated Adaptive Watershed Management
AF Project ID	ECU/RIE/Rural/2016/1
Project Category	Regular Project
Country	Ecuador
Sector	Rural development
Implementing Entity	CAF Development Bank of Latin America and he Caribbean
Executing Entities	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Ministry of Environment and Energy of Ecuador (MAE)
Approved Funding Amount (USD)	2,489,373 USD
AFB Approval Date	July16, 2018
Start of the project	November 5, 2025
Project Completion Date	November 5, 2029

3.2. Project Objective

General objective of the project:

Strengthening the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed and develop a model of adaptation to climate change that can be replicated in similar context in the country and in the region.

Specific objectives of the project:

- Reduce the impact of climate change on the hydrological cycle under integrated watershed management approach.
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices adapted to the new conditions of climate change and efficient technology in production processes supported by credit.

3.3. Project description

The project develops a replicable climate change adaptation model based on integrated watershed management. In the medium term, it seeks to conserve forest cover and promote sustainable agriculture with a gender perspective, while in the long term it aims to improve ecosystem resilience and hydrological regulation. Its three operational components address the conservation of vegetation cover, agricultural productive adaptation with climate-smart finance, and local capacity building and the systematization of lessons learned, with the active participation of communities, local governments, and institutional actors.

The project has a budget of 2,489,373 financed by the Adaptation Fund and channeled through CAF as the Implementing Entity. The project design integrates Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), sustainable agriculture, and territorial management approaches, to ensure implementation is coherent and aligned with national and local adaptation priorities.

It will be implemented in the provinces of Cotopaxi, Pichincha, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, covering five cantons and several rural parishes within the Toachi and Pilatón territorial units. Work will be conducted directly with local communities and agricultural production systems, which is why FAO was selected for its experience and technical profile in sustainable agriculture. In total, it is estimated that 14,553 people will be direct beneficiaries, while 49,367 people will receive benefits indirectly through the actions promoted in the territory.

3.4. Stakeholders

The project involves a wide range of stakeholders participating at different levels of governance, implementation, and coordination. At the international level, the Adaptation Fund constitutes the financing body, while CAF acts as the Implementing Entity responsible for technical supervision and general project monitoring. At the national level, the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE) and FAO fulfill the role of Executing Entities, leading operational planning, technical assistance, and the execution of activities on the ground.

The project also coordinates with key sectoral institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGP), responsible for training and technical support in sustainable agricultural practices; the National Planning Secretariat (SNP), in charge of articulation with land-use planning processes; and the National Water Authority, which is the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), responsible for the country's water policy together with ARCA (Agency for Water Regulation and Control). ARCA is the water regulation and control entity and a fundamental actor for watershed management, the formation of watershed committees, and processes linked to water management. Likewise, the Environmental Unit of the National Police participates in monitoring compliance with environmental regulations in the project areas.

At the subnational level, the Provincial, Cantonal, and Parish Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD) of Cotopaxi, Pichincha, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas constitute strategic partners for territorial management, the mainstreaming of adaptation into development plans, the conservation of protected areas, and the strengthening of local governance. In parallel, the project incorporates a diversity of community actors, producer associations, and local organizations, including women's associations, livestock groups, panela producer associations, and agricultural organizations, who participate in the implementation of adaptive productive practices, sustainable soil management, conservation of native vegetation, and the replication of learning.

In the economic and financial sphere, the project seeks to engage the participation of savings and credit cooperatives and banking entities with a territorial presence (such as CACPECO, Manantial de Oro, Maquita Cushunchic, San Miguel de Sigchos, Unidad y Progreso, BanEcuador, and Banco Pichincha), which will be key to introducing climate-smart financing mechanisms and climate risk analysis in credit evaluation. Finally, the Hidrotoapi hydroelectric power plant is considered a relevant actor due to its direct relationship with the hydrological regulation of the watershed and as a potential contributor to the financial sustainability mechanism envisaged in the project.

3.5. Implementation

The implementation is underpinned by an operational structure that articulates financing, technical management, and territorial action. CAF, in its role as Implementing Entity, manages the funds and ensures their proper transfer to the actions executed by MAE and FAO, who are responsible for carrying out the intervention on the ground. Activities include workshops, technical assistance, capacity building, and actions aimed at the sustainability of productive systems and water resources.

Implementation is carried out in five cantons and seven rural parishes detailed below: El Chaupi, Aloasí, Manuel Cornejo Astorga (in Mejía); Las Pampas, Palo Quemado, Sigchos (in Sigchos); Toacaso (Latacunga); Chugchilán, Zumbahua (Pujilí); and Alluriquín (in Santo Domingo de los Colorados), with a participatory and collaborative approach that facilitates climate change adaptation and strengthens community resilience.

3.5.1. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is composed of the Designated Authority of the Government of Ecuador to the Adaptation Fund (MAE)[1], the Responsible Executive (CAF) as part of the Project Implementing Entity, and the Responsible Executive (FAO) as part of the Project Executing Entity

Key Functions:

- Approve the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and the Annual Procurement Plan.
- Evaluate the technical and financial progress of the project.
- Authorize budgetary or strategic modifications as necessary.
- Designate implementation team roles (if applicable).
- Evaluate project performance and ensure its alignment with the objectives

3.5.2. Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is composed of the following technical focal points: the Vice Ministry of Environment and Coastal Marine Affairs, the Vice Ministry of Water, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries, CAF, and FAO.

[1] In July and August 2025, through Executive Decrees No. 60 and No. 94, the national Government implemented the Administrative Efficiency Plan, a restructuring process that reduced the number of ministries and reorganized competencies to streamline public administration. In the environmental and energy sphere, these decrees mandated the merger of related functions, integrating environmental policy, water management, and environmental regulation competencies into the structure of the Ministry of Energy and Mines, which was renamed the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE).

Key Functions:

- Guide the technical implementation according to the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and the Annual Procurement Plan.
- Evaluate outputs, results, and activity progress.
- Support the Steering Committee with technical inputs for decision-making.
- Coordinate with local and sectoral stakeholders (MAG, GAD, CELEC, INAMHI).
- Ensure the application of the project's technical and environmental standards.

3.5.3. Operational Structure

Project implementation will adhere to the following structure:

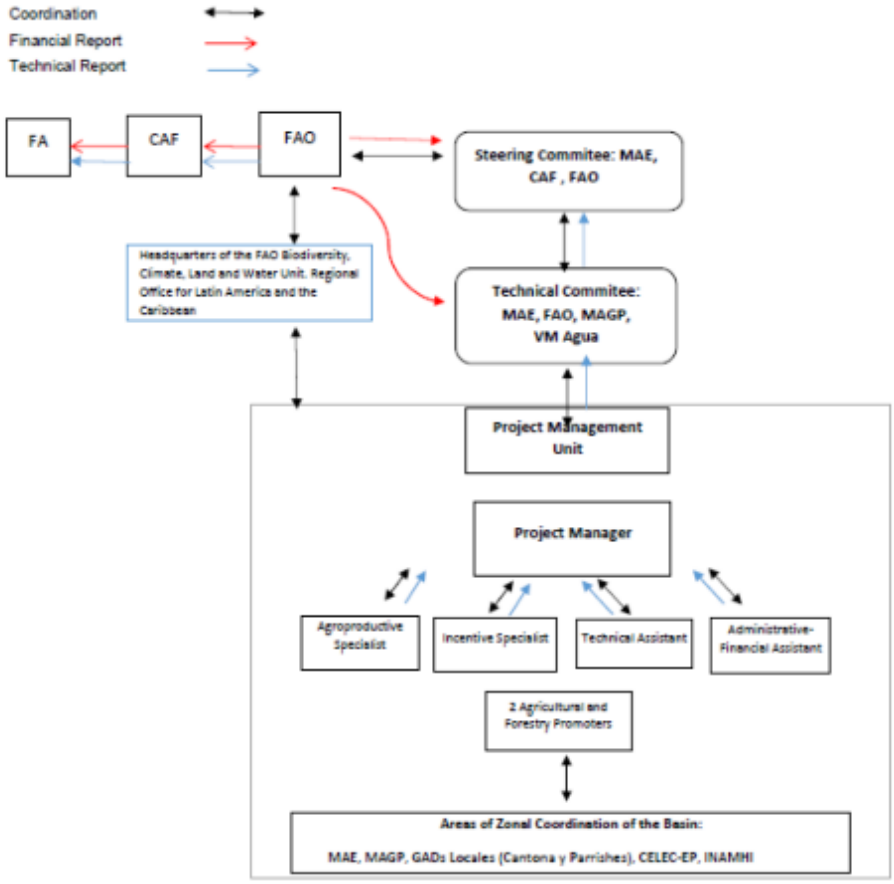


Figure 1. Organizational structure of the project

3.6. Compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund

The project complies with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy by identifying, evaluating, and managing environmental and social risks, ensuring that activities do not generate significant adverse impacts and include adequate mitigation measures. The document incorporates criteria for equitable access, inclusive participation, grievance mechanisms, and differentiated processes for vulnerable groups. Regarding gender, the project adopts an approach that recognizes existing gender gaps in the territory and

prioritizes women's active participation in decision-making, technical training, and the adoption of adaptive practices. The Gender Plan establishes concrete actions to guarantee equal opportunities, prevent discrimination, and strengthen female leadership in agriculture and conservation. Together, both plans guide implementation to ensure that the project is executed under robust safeguards, with a rights-based approach, equity, and social and environmental sustainability.

The Inception Workshop was held in a participatory manner, bringing together communities, institutions, and local actors in open dialogue spaces, ensuring early, informed, and inclusive participation. The collective review of the Environmental and Social Plan and the Gender Plan allowed beneficiaries to recognize the environmental, social risks, and gender indicators, as well as identify mitigation measures arising from the dialogue among groups. This ensures that project implementation responds directly to territorial realities, ensuring that actions do not generate negative impacts and promote equitable benefits.

Inputs regarding watershed management, ecological restoration, community governance, effective participation, and gender equity strengthen the development of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and the Gender Action Plan, ensuring they integrate measures that are viable, culturally relevant, and legitimized by the population. Furthermore, the community emphasis on transparency, shared responsibility, respect, prevention of violence, and recognition of women's work contributes directly to the Fund's principles related to human rights, equitable access, protection of vulnerable groups, and women's empowerment. In this way, the participatory process not only informs the project but also ensures its full alignment with the safeguards and its social, environmental, and cultural sustainability.

4. INCEPTION WORKSHOP

4.1. Objective

Promote dialogue to ensure that all stakeholders, including implementing partners, understand and agree on the project objectives, goals, and operational framework.

4.2. Pre-Inception workshop activities

The activities planned for the organization of this Inception Workshop are shown below.

4.2.1. Workshop Context

The Inception Workshop for the Project was organized with the purpose of establishing a solid and consensus-based foundation for project implementation.

Its objective was to align all involved actors, present and define the operational framework, and ensure the joint ownership of the objectives, goals, execution mechanisms, approaches, principles, and safeguards. Within the project framework, this event represented a key milestone to strengthen the comprehensive understanding of the project, addressing its planning, financing, and execution context, with an emphasis on climate change adaptation, nature-based resilience, and the participation of local communities.

4.2.2. Organization

The workshop was convened and organized by the Project Executing Entity on the ground (MAE and FAO), with the support of the Implementing Entity CAF and in coordination with national and international technical partners. Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment and

Energy (MAE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGP), and other institutions related to the country's environmental, agricultural, and energy management participated as strategic allies.

4.2.3. Date and Location

The event was held on November 5, 2025, from 09:00 to 13:00, in person at the Auditorium of the Santa Catalina Experimental Station of the National Institute of Agricultural Research, located at Panamericana Sur Km. 1, Cutuglagua Sector, Mejía Canton, Pichincha province.

4.2.4. Participants

The workshop had the participation of 129 attendees, of which 68 were women and 61 were men. Participants included representatives of local communities, Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs), governmental institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), international cooperation agencies, implementing partners, and technical teams from the involved ministries. This diverse group ensured multisectoral representation, fostering coordination among key actors for project implementation. (See Annex 2: List of Workshop Participants)

4.2.5. Program

The workshop program was structured around strategic themes for the project's launch. The main contents included:

- Presentation of the project's general outline.
- Alignment with the objectives of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.
- Importance of the project within the national agenda for climate change, agrifood systems, and sustainable energy.
- Presentation of the project team and implementing partners.
- Policy framework for climate change adaptation in Ecuador.
- Description of the components, intervention territories, budget, AOP, and Annual Procurement Plan for the first year.
- Presentation of the Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Plan and the Gender Plan

  The complete workshop program is included in Annex 1.

4.3. Methodology

The workshop was developed using a participatory methodology that combined informational presentations, group work, and plenary sessions. Two working blocks were organized. In the first block, three groups were formed, each guided by a facilitator and a systematizer; the group work focused on one of the project's main components. The teams actively worked on analyzing the objectives, activities, and scope of each component. Subsequently, the results, concerns, and proposals that emerged from each group were socialized in a plenary session.

In the second block, each initial group was subdivided into two, forming a total of six working groups, focused on analyzing, discussing, and strengthening the project’s environmental, social, and gender safeguards. This dynamic allowed for an in-depth exchange of ideas and experiences. Finally, question and answer sessions and a final plenary were held, where the main conclusions and collective contributions were presented, consolidating a shared vision for project implementation (see Annex 4).

Finally, the results from each block were systematized by the technical team to be considered in the planning of actions to be carried out during project implementation.

4.4. Actions Prior to Project Start

4.4.1. Inception Process

As part of the inception process, inter-institutional coordination meetings were held to establish a clear and consensus-based operational structure for the project. These spaces allowed for the definition of essential roles, processes, and management mechanisms to ensure an orderly launch, as well as to lay the foundations for governance and communication between the Executing Entities and local actors. This process is detailed below:

a. Preparation Meetings

Prior to the formal launch, strategic meetings were held between December 2024 and April 2025 to ensure adequate organization and inter-institutional coordination. At the meeting on December 9, 2024, the Project Start-up Committee was formed, establishing the initial responsibilities and guidelines for advancing technical and administrative processes. Subsequently, on April 1, 2025, during the Steering Committee session, progress was reviewed and the commencement of the contracting process for key personnel and services, necessary for project execution, was authorized.

In parallel, these meetings allowed for the structuring of the launch event planning, defining its scope, objectives, logistics, and involved actors. Furthermore, a governance model was discussed and agreed upon to guide decision-making, inter-institutional coordination, and the formal communication channels between the executing organizations and local stakeholders. These efforts laid the organizational and operational foundations for the effective launch of the project.

b. Project Launch

The project launch was managed through a Forum developed in May 2025, which was named “Climate Adaptation Based on Communities and Ecosystems,” a space designed to promote knowledge sharing, participation, and direct exchange with local communities. The central objective of the forum was to open a dynamic dialogue to share ideas, acknowledge prior experiences, identify common needs, and begin building strong links between local organizations and the Project’s Executing Entities.

During the gathering, the fundamental role of water was highlighted as a central element for peasant production, ecological conservation and restoration, as well as for energy security, a point underscored by representatives of social organizations and NGOs. Furthermore, the project's vision for sustainability and conservation was presented, with an emphasis on financial mechanisms and innovative incentives tailored to the diversity of territorial contexts, in collaboration with CAF-FIAS-FEPP and the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC).

The forum culminated in an open question and answer session, which allowed for clarification of concerns, enrichment of the discussion, and the strengthening of the participatory process that will guide the implementation of the Río Blanco Project.

c. Coordinación previa con las comunidades

Prior coordination to ensure community participation in both the launch and the inception workshop included articulated work with parish authorities, community leaders, and local organizations in El Chaupi, Manuel Cornejo Astorga, Sigchos, Chugchilán, Las Pampas, and

Palo Quemado. This process involved informative meetings and the joint definition of calling mechanisms to ensure that all sectors, especially those most directly linked to productive systems and ecosystem services, were adequately represented.

The transportation of beneficiaries and local leaders who had difficulties participating was secured, ensuring representative participation from each parish. The timely delivery of invitations and the confirmation of participants were managed through official channels. These actions ensured broad and equitable participation in both sessions, strengthening the sense of shared responsibility and the commitment of the communities in the project implementation process.

d. Steering Committee Meetings

The project has a governance structure defined by the Adaptation Fund, in which the Steering Committee represents the highest strategic level for guiding and validating key decisions. Ahead of the inception workshop scheduled for November 5, 2025, the Steering Committee was formally convened on October 30, 2025, where it approved the fundamental technical inputs for implementation. These include the budget, the Annual Operating Plan (AOP), the Annual Procurement Plan, and the governance mechanisms.

Likewise, the operational roles and the general timeline will be reviewed to ensure an orderly project launch. These decisions will allow management to align with the Adaptation Fund guidelines. With this, the workshop will formally mark the commencement of execution under a solid and validated structure (see minute of the First Steering Committee Meeting in Annex 6).

4.5. Workshop Execution

4.5.1. Workshop Execution

The main authorities present delivered the welcome remarks:

- **Daniela Limongi**, Vice Minister of Environment and Coastal Marine Affairs (MAE).
- **Mauricio Velásquez** Representative of CAF, Implementing Entity.
- **Érika Zárate**, Officer-in-Charge of FAO in Ecuador, Executing Entity.
- **Jorge Rivadeneira**, Director of the Santa Catalina Experimental Station, INIAP.

Jorge Rivadeneira, highlighted that the space seeks to promote an open dialogue, gather valuable inputs, and advance toward the project objectives through collaborative, participatory, and transformative work. He concluded by thanking the participants for their presence and commitment, wishing for a fruitful workshop for the benefit of the territories and communities.

Next, Daniela Limongi, Vice Minister of Environment and Coastal Marine Affairs, MAE, conveyed the greetings of the President of the Republic and the Minister of Environment and Energy, Inés Manzano, wishing the event success. She formally welcomed the Río Blanco project inception workshop, highlighting its contribution to the National Climate Change Adaptation Agenda, sustainable water management, and the just and inclusive ecological transition. She then described the importance of the Toachi-Pilatón water system, which covers over 2,100 km² in Cotopaxi, Pichincha, and Santo Domingo, involving 74,000 inhabitants and a 254 MW hydroelectric power plant that provides clean energy to thousands of families.

However, she warned about the high levels of environmental and social vulnerability: deforestation, soil degradation, loss of vegetation cover, poverty (98% with unsatisfied basic needs), and the effects of climate change (droughts, floods, and landslides). To address this, the government is promoting the project with support from the Adaptation Fund, CAF, and FAO, in coordination with local governments and communities.

Its central objective is to increase the adaptive capacity of communities, ecosystems, and hydroelectric systems, generating a model that can be replicated in other watersheds. She underscored the human and territorial approach, highlighting water as a link between people and nature, and climate resilience as a balance between the two.

She emphasized the empowerment of women, the recognition of local knowledge, and sustainability as a development opportunity. She announced that the project will be implemented over four years, with an investment exceeding 2.3 million dollars, under principles of transparency, participation, and sustainability. She concluded by pointing out that this workshop not only inaugurates a technical process but plants a seed of resilience and cooperation, marking the beginning of a collective story of work and hope for the Río Blanco communities.

4.5.2. Presentations

Below is an outline of each presentation delivered during the workshop.

a. Project Outline: Alignment with the Objectives of the Adaptation Fund and CAF

Mauricio Velásquez, Principal Executive Director of Technical Advice on Biodiversity and Climate, CAF, representing the Implementing Entity, presented the technical, financial, and structural guidelines of the project, explaining their relationship with the objectives of the Adaptation Fund, the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), and FAO

His presentation addressed the following aspects:

i. Context and Financing

- The Adaptation Fund, an international financial organization of the UN, finances projects that strengthen resilience to climate change.
- The project has an investment of approximately 2.49 million dollars, of which 2.1 million are allocated to direct activities and the rest to operational and management costs.
- CAF acts as the implementing agency, channeling resources to the activities executed by MAE and FAO, which are the executing entities on the ground.
- The resources will also cover workshops, technical contracting, and activities that improve project execution.

ii. Area of Intervention and Stakeholders

- The project will be developed in three provinces: Cotopaxi, Pichincha, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, covering five cantons and several rural parishes.
- Work will be conducted directly with local communities and agricultural productive systems, which is why FAO was selected due to its technical profile and experience in sustainable agriculture.

iii. Justification and Problem Statement

Velásquez emphasized the water crisis as the central focus of the project.

- Climate change has altered rainfall patterns and water availability, affecting agricultural production, food security, and electrical generation of the Toachi-Pilatón system.
- This generates vulnerability in rural communities, especially those that depend on rainwater or lack irrigation systems.
- Among the main adaptation barriers identified are:
  - ✓ Lack of climate knowledge and water planning.
  - ✓ Low participation of women in climate governance.
  - ✓ Limited access to financing for adaptation activities.

CAF seeks to contribute in the Latin America region through credit lines and financial guarantees, such as the one established with Banco del Pacífico for 225 million dollars, to foster loans with better conditions for rural users.

iv. Project Objectives

The general objective is to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, ecosystems, and the hydroelectric systems of the upper Río Blanco/Toachi-Pilatón watershed, and to develop a replicable climate adaptation model applicable in other watersheds of the country.

v. Structure and Components

The project is organized into three main components:

Component 1: Conservation of Vegetation Cover

- Outcome 1. At least 230,000 ha of native vegetation is conserved to reduce the impact of climate change on the watershed´s hydrological cycle.

Component 2: Adapt farming practices to new climate change conditions and enable their sustainable climate smart financing

- Outcome 2. Sustainable farming practices adjusted to local realities are being introduced and implemented with technical assistance of innovative financing mechanisms for adaptation measures.
- Outcome 3. At least 1 long term financing mechanisms has been piloted or introduced

Component 3: Strengthen local capacities and share lessons

- Outcome 4. Local population and parish governments with increased capacity to implement climate change adaptation measures.

vi. Organizational Structure

- Steering Committee: integrated by MAE, CAF, and FAO, responsible for approving annual plans, evaluating progress, and authorizing budget adjustments.
- Technical Committee: composed of the Vice Ministry of Environment and Coastal Marine Affairs, the Vice Ministry of Water, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, CAF, and FAO, will support the technical execution and the incorporation of gender issues and environmental safeguards.

vii. Expected Impacts

- Socioeconomic: 63,000 beneficiaries, of which 14,000 families will directly adopt sustainable practices.
- Environmental: conservation and restoration of 230,000 hectares of native ecosystems.

- Institutional: inclusion of climate adaptation in local and provincial development plans, creation of a climate adaptation fund in the watershed, and integration of green finance into national financial institutions.

Velásquez concluded by emphasizing CAF's commitment to actively accompany MAE, FAO, and other institutions in the territorial execution of the project, with the purpose of increasing the resilience of communities and guaranteeing sustainable benefits for the future.

b. Importance of the Project for the National Integral Agenda of Climate Change, Agrifood Systems, and Sustainable Energy

Érika Zárate, representing the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Ecuador, the Project Executing Entity, addressed the strategic relevance of the Río Blanco project within the framework of the country's national and international commitments regarding climate change, as well as its link to sustainable agrifood systems, water management, and clean energy. Additionally, she presented the technical team and the implementing partners responsible for its execution. During her intervention, she highlighted the following points:

i. General Approach and Context

Zárate highlighted that the project is inserted into a context of climate crisis and increasing pressure on natural resources, where agriculture, livestock, and food systems are simultaneously sources of environmental degradation and pillars of human sustenance. She explained that the current challenge is to produce more food for a growing population, which will demand between 40% and 50% more production in the next 50 years, maintaining the profitability of agriculture but without increasing environmental degradation.

In the upper Río Blanco watershed, this challenge takes on a particular dimension because territorial management directly impacts the hydrological cycle and the generation of electrical energy. For this reason, the project articulates the nexus among agriculture, food, and energy, integrating sustainable production, water management, and ecosystem conservation.

ii. Alignment with the National Agenda and Global Commitments

Additionally, she noted that the project contributes directly to Ecuador’s commitments within the Paris Agreement, the National Climate Change Adaptation Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The territorial approach seeks to ensure that local actions by communities and producers have an impact on the productive, economic, and environmental circuits, generating tangible results in food security, climate resilience, and water management.

iii. Project Purpose and Scope

She reaffirmed the two main objectives of the project:

- To strengthen the adaptive capacity of the communities of the upper Río Blanco watershed against the effects of climate change.
- To develop an integrated territorial management model of the hydrological, productive, and habitability cycle, replicable in other watersheds of the country.

iv. Role and Contribution of FAO

As the Project Executing Entity, FAO collaborates with the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MAE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAGAP), and CAF, and puts its technical, scientific, and global management capacity at the service of the country.

v. Governance, Articulation, and Territorial Approach

Zárate stressed that the project seeks to be an intersectoral and participatory platform.

- It is led by the MAE, in coordination with MAGAP, Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD), academia, non-governmental organizations, and especially local communities, producers, peasants, and rural women.
- The territorialization of national policies will be promoted through concrete actions in the municipalities and parishes of the watershed.
- The project will have a duration of 2 to 3 years, with the purpose of consolidating a platform for sustainability and expansion to other areas, including the lower Río Blanco watershed.

vi. Presentation of the FAO Technical Team

Zárate presented the project's central team, composed of national and international specialists:

- Ana Karina Andrade - Specialist in climate change and water management.
- Joana Parreño - Specialist in sustainable production and landscapes.
- Maritza Velez - Technical assistance and monitoring.
- María Clara Osejo - Specialist in safeguards, gender, and indigenous peoples.
- Cecilia Ponce - Coordinator of the Environment and Agriculture Agenda for the FAO field program.
- José Beltrán - Head of technical-operational monitoring.
- Byron Coral - Specialist in incentives and value chains.

Zárate emphasized that the team reflects FAO's commitment to put its entire institutional capacity at the service of the country, guaranteeing technical and strategic support during execution.

She concluded by pointing out that the project represents a challenge and a historical opportunity to articulate the agricultural, environmental, and energy sectors under a territorial approach, and invited participants to actively engage in the process, contributing from the territories to the project's monitoring, follow-up, and continuous improvement, reaffirming that true resilience is built from the joint action of institutions and communities..

c. Policy Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Ecuador

Daysy Cárdenas, Director of Adaptation and Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment and Energy, highlighted the project's relevance, which seeks to strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change in the upper Río Blanco watershed, a territory key both for its environmental and social value and its climate vulnerability.

Cárdenas emphasized that the project is being implemented in this area for three main reasons:

i. Value and Vulnerability of the Territory

The watershed is part of the Toachi-Pilatón water system, essential for hydroelectric generation, water supply, and the survival of local communities.

In this territory, the following is identified:

- Productive activities at risk: The area faces degradation of soils, forests, and water sources, affecting subsistence agriculture and extensive livestock farming, which endangers income and food security.
- Impacts of climate change: Lower rainfall, extreme events, landslides, and floods are observed, increasing vulnerability and poverty (98% of the population lives with unsatisfied basic needs). Furthermore, it was mentioned that the watershed hosts 53,959 people and has an installed hydroelectric capacity of 250.4 MW.

ii. Involved Stakeholders

Besides the principal institutions, the following participate:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries,
- Local governments,
- Private sector,
- Local communities and organizations.

iii. Expected Results

- 1000 ha of native vegetation conserved.
- 230,000 ha with improved management of forests and private conservation areas.
- 500 ha with sustainable agricultural practices.
- 6 land-use planning plans incorporating ecosystem-based adaptation measures.
- Long-term financial mechanism established.
- Technicians trained in six parishes.
- 10,000 direct beneficiaries and an impact on 74,000 people in total.

Identified Opportunities

- Opening of export markets for local producers.
- Diversity of stakeholders and capacity building, including youth employment in rural areas.
- Rescue of ancestral knowledge regarding biodiversity and agrobiodiversity as a basis for adaptation.
- Potential for restoration, conservation, and ecological tourism.
- Protection of water sources that ensure water quality and the sustainability of the Toachi-Pilatón hydroelectric system, vital for national electrical generation.

d. Project Components, Territories of Work, and Budget, POA and PAC for Year 1

Anita Andrade, a specialist in climate change and water management, highlighted during her presentation that the project seeks to strengthen climate change adaptation for local communities and ecosystems in the upper Río Blanco watershed, linking nature with sustainable development.

In this session, the general project structure, the territories of intervention, components, the budget, and the operational planning for the first year were presented.

i. Area of Intervention

- Location: Toachi-Pilatón water system, upper Río Blanco watershed.
- Main Parishes: El Chaupi, Manuel Cornejo Astorga, Sigchos, Chugchilán, Las Pampas, and Palo Quemado.
- Extension: approximately 336,308 hectares.
- Territorial Approach: based on watershed and integrated landscape management, considering the relationship between ecosystems, communities, and productive activities.

ii. Areas under Conservation:

- Socio Bosque Program: 2,326 ha.
- Toachi-Pilatón Protective Forest: 96,543 ha.
- Umbría Protective Forest: 971 ha.
- Zarapullo Protective Forest: 21,388 ha.
- Los Ilinizas Ecological Reserve: 134,233 ha.

iii. Cover and Land Use:

- Native Forest: 142,400 ha.
- Páramo: 38,245 ha.
- Shrub and Herbaceous Vegetation: 8,947 ha.
- Agricultural Mosaic: 136,396 ha.

Deforestation and agricultural expansion are evident, which necessitates the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices, forest management plans, and ecological corridors. The páramo ecosystem is key for hydrological conservation.

A reduction in precipitation is projected, which reinforces the need for integrated territorial management and water resilience measures

iv. Project Design:

Joana Carreño, Specialist in Sustainable Production and Landscapes, outlined how the project is structured.

Next, Cecilia Ponce, Project Coordinator at FAO, explained in detail the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and Procurement Plan (PAC) for the first year of the Toachi-Pilatón project, specifying the goals, activities, budgets, and responsible parties for each component (see Annex 3 and 7).

The central objective was to guarantee transparency, efficiency, and local participation in the execution of a project oriented toward conserving ecosystems, strengthening sustainable production, and improving the climate resilience of the communities in the upper Río Blanco watershed.

e. Plan de salvaguardas ambientales y sociales del proyecto y plan de género.

Finally, María Clara, national specialist in socio-environmental safeguards and gender at FAO, presented the final exposition on environmental, social, and gender safeguards. She clearly and instructively introduced the fundamental principles of the environmental, social, and gender safeguards that guide project implementation. She explained that environmental safeguards seek to ensure that all activities contribute to the care of land, water, forests, and biodiversity, avoiding negative impacts such as contamination, erosion,

habitat loss, or inadequate agricultural practices. Simply put, she emphasized that the project must "help nature and not harm it."

Regarding social safeguards, she highlighted that the project must protect the rights of all individuals, guaranteeing equitable participation, dignified conditions, respect for local customs, and ensuring that no community is excluded or negatively affected. She explained the importance of ensuring access to information, community governance, and clear mechanisms for expressing concerns or complaints.

The presentation also addressed gender risks, noting that existing inequalities in the territory—in access to resources, time, opportunities, and decision-making—could be deepened if not addressed from the start. The measures of the Gender Action Plan were detailed, which include ensuring at least 50% female participation, adapting schedules and spaces, promoting shared responsibility, creating safe environments, and guaranteeing that women and men receive equitable benefits.

Finally, the set of measures proposed by the project to manage these risks and ensure an inclusive approach was presented: an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that incorporates preventive actions, participatory monitoring, and environmental education; the Gender Action Plan, aligned with national policies; and the implementation of an accessible and transparent grievance and suggestion mechanism. The presentation concluded by emphasizing that these instruments seek to ensure that the project contributes to the well-being of the communities, the protection of the territory, and the sustainability of the Río Blanco watershed.

4.5.3. Group Work and Plenary

With the objective of gathering territorial perceptions and enriching the collective understanding of the project components, two blocks of group work were developed, followed by plenary sessions.

In the first block, participants discussed the main challenges, opportunities, and priorities identified around the project components. In the second block, environmental, social, and gender safeguards were addressed, generating inputs on risks, needs, and measures that should be considered during implementation.

The plenaries allowed for sharing the contributions of each group and highlighting cross-cutting themes such as the importance of the territorial approach, community participation, gender equity, and the need to strengthen local coordination mechanisms. The complete detail of the specific contributions and results is included in Annex 5.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- The Inception Workshop enabled the establishment of a shared vision among the executing institutions, local actors, communities, and strategic partners regarding the project’s objectives, scope, and priorities. The space facilitated a collective understanding of the territorial context, the climate challenges of the upper Río Blanco watershed, and the project's integrated approach based on ecosystems, watershed management, and sustainable production.
- The group work and plenary session of the Inception Workshop consolidated a shared vision for implementing the project with environmental responsibility, social justice,

and gender equity. Furthermore, the necessity of strengthening local governance, promoting community participation, and ensuring shared responsibility between institutions and territorial actors was highlighted so that benefits reach both people and ecosystems.

- Collectively, the workshop represented a space for collective construction, where environmental, social, and gender perspectives were integrated, laying the foundation for participatory, equitable, and sustainable management of the territory and its water resources, reinforcing institutional commitments to move forward in a coordinated manner toward the expected results.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen operational coordination among institutions and territorial actors to ensure agile and coherent project implementation. Ensure the effective participation of women, youth, and historically excluded groups in decision-making processes.
- Integrate gender analysis into every project phase to ensure that benefits are equitable.
- Establish mechanisms for continuous dialogue and feedback between communities and institutions.
- Promote cooperation agreements and shared commitments for sustainable territorial management.
- Provide technical support that allows communities to lead adaptive actions.
- Maintain the participatory methodology used in the workshop throughout the project activities.
- Document lessons learned and best practices to strengthen future territorial processes

7. ANNEXS

Annex 1: Workshop Program

Hour	Topic	Responsible Party
8h30 – 9h00	Guest Registry	FAO - MAE Team
9h00 – 9h15	Welcome Remarks	MAE Representative
9h15- 9h30	Presentation of the Project Outline Alignment with the Objectives of the Adaptation Fund and CAF	CAF Representative, Mauricio Velásquez
9h30 - 10h00	Presentation of the importance of the project for the national integral agenda of climate change, agrifood systems, and sustainable energy Presentation of the project team and implementing partners	FAO Representative, Érika Zárate
10h00-10h10	Presentation on the project within the framework of climate change adaptation policies in Ecuador	Undersecretary of Climate Change Representative, MAE
10h10-11h00	Presentation of project components, territories of work and budget, POA and PAC for year 1	FAO Project Coordination
11h00 – 11h30	Round of comments and inputs from participants on the project, in three working groups: one for each component	FAO – Ecuador Team and invited participants
11h30 – 11h40	Recess	
11h40 – 12h30	Presentation of the project's environmental and social safeguards plan and Gender Plan Work in three groups to comment on priority elements for the project territories in relation to the safeguards plan.	FAO – Ecuador Team and invited participants
12h30-13h00	Agreements on the next steps and project coordination mechanisms	FAO-MAE-CAF
13h00-13h15	Closing, lunch	

Annex 2: List of Workshop Participants

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

REGISTRO DE ASISTENCIA

Fecha:	06/11/2025	Evento:	Taller de arranque del proyecto Río Blanco (Toachi Pilatón)	Total participantes:	129
Lugar y hora:	Sta Catalina 09:00	Responsable:	Maritza Velez		

No.	Nombre cédula	Institución/Organización (Cargo)	Correo electrónico Teléfono	Género M	Género F	Género Otro	Rango Edad 18-25 años	Rango Edad 26-35 años	Rango Edad 36-45 años	Rango Edad 46-64 años	Rango Edad Más 65 años	Autoidentificación étnica	Firma
1	Nombre: Cristina Cadena CI: 1723726412	Institución: MAE Cargo: Analista de Biodiversidad	@: cristina.cadena@ambiente.gob.ec Telf: 0982116125		X				X			mestiza	
2	Nombre: Roney Grijalva CI: 1720171286	Institución: MAE Cargo: Guarda parque	@: roney.grijalva@ambiente.gob.ec Telf: 0979129355	X				X				mestizo	
3	Nombre: Dayan Cárdenas CI:	Institución: MAE / DAEC Cargo: Directora	@: dayan.cardenas@ambiente.gob.ec Telf:		X				X			Mestiza	
4	Nombre: Alex Suntaxi CI:	Institución: GADM San Cayetano Cargo: Guarda Parque Ambiental	@: Telf: 0981214593	X				X				Mestizo	
5	Nombre: Noe Gonzales CI: 1311873503	Institución: PAE - DD Ecuador Río Blanco Cargo:	@: noe.gonzalez@ambiente.gob.ec Telf: 0996240849						X			Mestizo	
6	Nombre: Natasha Baer CI: 1712537937	Institución: RCA - Sacha Runa Cargo: Coordinadora	@: natasha.baer@rca.int Telf: 0957256916		X				X			Mestizo	
7	Nombre: Cesar Cuesta CI: 1717938315	Institución: MAE - REI-EA Cargo: Guarda parque	@: victor.cuesta@ambiente.gob.ec Telf: 0983825280	X					X			Mestizo	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

REGISTRO DE ASISTENCIA

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8	Nombre: [illegible] CI: [illegible]	Institución: MAE - [illegible] Cargo: [illegible]	@: [illegible] Telf:							X		[illegible]	
9	Nombre: Mauricio Velásquez CI: 0909390783	Institución: CAF Cargo: Ejecutivo	@: MVelasquez@caf.com Telf:	✓						X		Mestizo	
10	Nombre: Fernando Celi CI: [illegible]	Institución: CODESPA Cargo: Representante	@: FCELI@codespa.org Telf: [illegible]	/						/		Mestizo	
11	Nombre: Jorge Rivadeneira CI: 1704746968	Institución: INIAP Cargo: Director	@: jorge.rivadeneira@iniap.gob.ec Telf:	✓						X		Mestizo	
12	Nombre: Yolanda Velastegui CI: 0502156508	Institución: San Juan Cargo: Representante	@: yolanda.velastegui1956@outlook.es Telf:		✓				✓			Mestizo	
13	Nombre: Noemi Velastegui CI: 0503962102	Institución: San Juan Cargo: Representante	@: noemyvelastegui1348@gmail.com Telf:		/			✓				Mestizo	
14	Nombre: [illegible] CI: [illegible]	Institución: San Juan Cargo: Representante	@: [illegible] Telf: 0985045192	✓			✓			X		[illegible]	
15	Nombre: [illegible] CI: 0501961663	Institución: Apicultores San Juan Cargo: Representante	@: [illegible] Telf: 0984197435		✓					✓		Indígena	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

REGISTRO DE ASISTENCIA

No.	Nombre cédula	Institución/Organización (Cargo)	Correo electrónico Teléfono	Género M	F	Otro	Rango Edad 18-25 años	26-35 años	36-45 años	46-64 años	Más 65 años	Autoidentificación étnica	Firma
16	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Tel:										
17	Nombre: VIVIANA VILLAVICENCIO Cl: 0502296783	Institución: LAS PAMPAS Cargo:	@: Tel:		X								
18	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: INIAP Cargo:	@: Tel:		X				X				
19	Nombre: 1706593 Cl:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Tel:	X							X		
20	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Tel:		X			X					
21	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: Tel:		X					X			
22	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: Tel:		X					X			
23	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: Tel:		X				X				

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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24	Nombre: Cl: 170777212-3	Institución: JAHBELI (Alo43) Cargo:	@: Tel: 0991186382	✓						✓		MESTISO	
25	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: Proyecto Socio Bosques Cargo:	@: Tel:		✓			✓					
26	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Tel:	✓				✓					
27	Nombre: Cl: 1802441011	Institución: ESPE Cargo: Docente	@: Tel: 0950897864	X						✓		Mestizo	
28	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: Tel:										
29	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: Tel:										
30	Nombre: Alejandro Cl: 1726591352	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: Tel:										
31	Nombre: Cl:	Institución: FAO - PPD Cargo:	@: Tel:										

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

REGISTRO DE ASISTENCIA

Fecha:		Evento:		Total participantes:	
Lugar y hora:		Responsable:			

No.	Nombre cédula	Institución/Organización (Cargo)	Correo electrónico Teléfono	Género M	Género F	Género Otro	Rango Edad 18-25 años	26-35 años	36-45 años	46-64 años	Más 65 años	Autoidentificación étnica	Firma
32	Nombre: Verónica Suango CI: 171489589	Institución: INIAP Cargo:	@: veronica.suango@iniap.gob.ec Telf:		✓				✓			Mestiza	
33	Nombre: Rossano Bermeo CI: 090481897-17	Institución: FONAG Cargo: Gestión Proyectos [illegible]	@: rossano.bermeo@fonag.org.ec Telf:		✓			✓				Mestizo	
34	Nombre: Susana Ascención CI: 0104098538	Institución: FONAG Cargo: [illegible]	@: susana.ascencio@fonag.org.ec Telf:		✓							Mestiza	
35	Nombre: Jenny Criollo CI: 1803011753	Institución: ISU Cotopaxi Cargo: Coordinadora Carrera	@: jcriollos@istc.edu.ec Telf: 0995237382		✓					✓		Mestiza	
36	Nombre: Sebastián Borja CI:	Institución: ISU Cotopaxi Cargo: Docente	@: sborja[illegible]@istc.edu.ec Telf: 0983728649	✓				✓				Mestizo	
37	Nombre: Edwin Endara P. CI: 030195160	Institución: MAGP Cargo: Analista	@: [illegible]@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0997128730	✓					✓			Mestizo	
38	Nombre: Wilmer Jiménez CI: 1104446337	Institución: MAGP-SGA-DEAA Cargo: Especialista	@: wjimenez@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0983503893	✓					✓			Mestizo	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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Fecha:		Evento:		Total participantes:	
Lugar y hora:		Responsable:			

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39	Nombre: Cesar Gundalle CI: 1725326649	Institución: Comunidad Praderas del T Cargo:	@: 0997956129 Telf: 0967047502	M	[illegible]					49			
40	Nombre: Eduardo Muñoz CI: 050190666-3	Institución: Praderas del Toachi Cargo:	@: 0961004506 Telf:	M			59			54		Participativo	
41	Nombre: Edgar Cadena Bautista CI: 1729552954	Institución: Manuel Cornejo Astorga (La Palma) Cargo:	@: 0981861248 Telf:	M			38		33			mestizo	
42	Nombre: Shirley Margot Cadena Bautista CI: 1724930901	Institución: Manuel Cornejo Astorga (Tandapi) Cargo:	@: cadena.shirley@hotmail.com Telf: 0969874496		X		38		33			mestizo	
43	Nombre: Ines Maribel Cadena Bautista CI: 2350630105	Institución: Manuel Cornejo Astorga (La Palma) Cargo:	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0995 534 844		X		21					Mestizo	
44	Nombre: Mayra K. Cadena CI: 2300376809	Institución: GAD Parroquial Palo Quemado Cargo: Vocal	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0988665942		X			29				Mestizo	
45	Nombre: Lorena Ayapata CI: 1713105234	Institución: GAD Parroquial Palo Quemado Cargo: Vocal	@: [illegible]@hotmail.com Telf: 0980401440		X			35				Mestizo	

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46	Nombre: Elver Sarango CI: 0200528136	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0989080467		✓					✓		Montubio	
47	Nombre: Hilda Quila CI: 050 093219-5	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0998612263		✓						✓	Montubia	
48	Nombre: Belia Portuña CI: 050171254-9	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0990943975		✓					✓		Montubia	
49	Nombre: Lucrecia Gandulle CI:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0990372577		✓						✓	Montubio	
50	Nombre: Mercy Cruz CI: 1719423749	Institución: Cargo:	@: 0939464200 Telf:		✓				✓			Montubia	
51	Nombre: Mayra Balseca CI: 1723986152	Institución: Cargo:	@: 096965333 Telf:		✓			✓				Mestizo	
52	Nombre: Jimena oto CI: 050399333-5	Institución: Cargo: Agricultor	@: [illegible] Telf: 0990358257		✓			✓				Mestizo	
53	Nombre: Nivaldo Gandulle CI: 1715809475	Institución: Cargo: Agricultor	@: nivaldo gandulle[illegible] Telf: 0967694145	✓					✓			Mestizo	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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54	Nombre: Rosa Romero CI: 1710780527	Institución: Cargo: Presidenta comunidad	@: Telf: 0985109283		✓					✓		Mestiza.	
55	Nombre: Pleidas Masapanta CI: 050143595-2	Institución: Cargo: Agricultor	@: Telf:	✓							✓	Mestizo	
56	Nombre: Susana Vargas CI: 0604049417	Institución: Cargo: Agricultora	@: Telf:		✓							Indígena	
57	Nombre: Baltazar Puma CI: 060258465-3	Institución: Cargo: Agricultura	@: Telf:	✓								Indígena	
58	Nombre: Beatriz Inga CI: 0605094098	Institución: Cargo: Agricultura	@: Telf:		✓							Indígena	
59	Nombre: Miguel Lapo CI: 170495662-2	Institución: Cargo: Agricultura	@: Telf:	✓								Indígena	
60	Nombre: Rubén Balseca CI: 1722885527	Institución: GAD LAS PAMPAS Cargo: Presidente	@: [illegible] Telf: 0994055274	✓					✓			Mestizo	
61	Nombre: Diana Córdova CI: 0503760145	Institución: GAD LAS PAMPAS Cargo: Vocal	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0994405564						✓			Mestizo	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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62	Nombre: Tatiana Romero CI: 1721098439	Institución: MAGP- Cargo: Técnico Campo	@: tlromeom@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0997911853		✓				✓			Mestizo	
63	Nombre: Fausto Viveros CI: 1709543337	Institución: GAD Parroquial Cargo: Vocal Chaupi	@: [illegible]@yahoo.com Telf: 0991581347	✓					✓			Mestizo [illegible]	
64	Nombre: Jimena Gomez CI: 1710474604	Institución: GADP. Vocal Cargo: Vocal El Chaupi	@: [illegible] Telf: 0994526053		✓				✓			mestizo	
65	Nombre: Sonia Calderón Rivera CI: 171570749-5	Institución: GADPEL CHAUPI Cargo: Vocal	@: soniacalderon91415@gmail.com Telf:		✓					✓		mestizo	
66	Nombre: Julio Olivera CI: 1724896038	Institución: AFC-MAG Cargo: Director	@: [illegible]@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0997594590	✓							✓	Mestizo	
67	Nombre: Omar Barahona CI:	Institución: AFC MAG Cargo: Director	@: bbarahona@mag.gob.ec Telf:	✓				✓				Mestizo	
68	Nombre: [illegible] CI: 1716551294	Institución: MAG Cargo: TEC. Campo [illegible]	@: [illegible]@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0994273[illegible]	✓					✓			Mestizo	
69	Nombre: Luis Alberto Milingalli CI: [illegible]152712[illegible]	Institución: Proyecto Maquita comunidad El Rodeo Cargo:	@: Telf: 0993140535	✓						✓		Mestizo	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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Lugar y hora:		Responsable:			

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70	Nombre: Mariela Viteri CI: 1804850485	Institución: FLOR DE CAÑA Cargo: Productora [illegible]	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0939025947		✓		✓					Montubio	
71	Nombre: Maisel Viteri CI: [illegible]	Institución: Aso. Flor de Caña Cargo: Administradora	@: Telf: [illegible]		✓		✓					Montubia	
72	Nombre: Dennis Viteri CI: 0500568893	Institución: Aso. Flor de Caña Cargo: Productor	@: Telf: 0969801752	✓			✓					Montubio	
73	Nombre: Emilse Toale O CI: 0504200445	Institución: Cargo:	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0995279802		✓		✓					Montubio	
74	Nombre: Nancy Oto CI: 0502129851	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0990312517		✓							Montubia	
75	Nombre: Marlene Pinto CI: 1716504818	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0984410417		✓				✓	✓		Montubia	
76	Nombre: Magali Ávila CI: 850128797-0	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf: 0979383750		✓					✓		Montubia	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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77	Nombre: María Rosa Chiluiza CI:	Institución: Parroquia Grande Cargo:	@: Telf:									mestiza	
78	Nombre: Jorge Pilataxi CI: 0502805758	Institución: Gobierno parroquial de Chugchilan Cargo: Local	@: jorgechuba.gpch@hotmail.com Telf: 0980576703	✓					✓			indígena	
79	Nombre: Jose Pilataxig CI: 0502948608	Institución: GADPRCH Cargo: PRESIDENTE	@: josepilataxig@hotmail.com Telf:	✓					✓			indígena	
80	Nombre: Transito Andrade CI:	Institución: ASOJambeli Cargo:	@: Telf: 0981525044									mestiza	
81	Nombre: Ivanova Andrade CI:	Institución: ASOJambeli Cargo:	@: Telf: 0991949765									Mestiza	
82	Nombre: Ana María Collaguazo CI:	Institución: ASOJambeli Cargo:	@: Telf: 0984791082		✓					✓		Mestiza	
83	Nombre: Rosa Quechilon CI: 0501126267	Institución: Cooperativa Chico Cargo:	@: Telf: 0939213852									Mestiza	
84	Nombre: Dario Guanochanga CI: 0503501736	Institución: Chinalo Alto Cargo: Presidente	@: guanochanga.kcc@gmail.com Telf: 0959473252									Indígena	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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85	Nombre: Ana Andrade CI: 1722123521	Institución: FAO Cargo: Especialista	@: Telf: 0979463211		X				X			Mestiza	
86	Nombre: Jose Beltran CI: 1711148201	Institución: FAO Cargo: MEL's	@: Telf: 0993033515	X				X					
87	Nombre: Reinaldo Orejuela CI: 1003224100	Institución: FAO Cargo: Agricultor	@: Telf: 0958666382		X				X			Mestizo	
88	Nombre: [illegible] CI: [illegible]	Institución: FAO EC Cargo:	@: Telf: [illegible]	X					X			Mestiza	
89	Nombre: Julia Fabara CI:	Institución: FAO EC Cargo:	@: Telf: 0983076100		X					X		Mestiza	
90	Nombre: Javier Iturralde CI:	Institución: Sychos Cargo:	@: Telf: 0994781617	X					X	X			
91	Nombre: Angel Sajche CI:	Institución: Sychos Cargo:	@: Telf: 0982710024	X					X				

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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85	Nombre: Ana Andrade CI: 1722323578	Institución: FAO Cargo: Ejecutiva	@: ana.andrade@fao.org Telf: 0997463[illegible]		x				x			Mestiza	
86	Nombre: Jose Beltran CI: 171[illegible]	Institución: FAO Cargo: MELS	@: Telf: 0975[illegible]	x				x					
87	Nombre: Samela Grijalva CI: 1003924100	Institución: FAO Cargo: Especialista	@: [illegible] Telf: 095[illegible]		x				x			Mestizo	
88	Nombre: Santiago Baltodano CI: [illegible]	Institución: FAO EC Cargo:	@: [illegible] Telf: [illegible]	x					x			Mestizo	
89	Nombre: Julia Fabara CI:	Institución: FAO EC Cargo:	@: julia.fabara@fao.org Telf: 0984676100		x					x		Mestizo	
90	Nombre: Javier Jaramillo CI:	Institución: Sicchos Cargo:	@: 0994781617 Telf:	x					x	x			
91	Nombre: Angel Sofía CI:	Institución: Sicchos Cargo:	@: Telf: 098[illegible]	x					x				

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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92	Nombre: Tatiana Coloma CI: 0604[illegible]	Institución: PNRP - MAE Cargo: Analista	@: [illegible] Telf:		x				x			Mestiza	
93	Nombre: Henry Cunduri CI: [illegible]	Institución: Cargo:	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf:	x				x				Mestizo	
94	Nombre: Miguel Yugsi CI: [illegible]	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf:	x			x					Mestiza	
95	Nombre: Johana Falconez CI: [illegible]	Institución: MAGP Cargo: Técnico	@: [illegible]@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0992[illegible]		x			x				Mestizo	
96	Nombre: Amanda Cumbajin CI: 1720783367	Institución: Mag Cargo: agricultor	@: [illegible] Telf: 0991[illegible]		x				x			[illegible]	
97	Nombre: Susana Betancourt [illegible] CI:	Institución: MAGAP Cargo:	@: susana[illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0939750[illegible]		x					x		Mestizo	
98	Nombre: Aurora Andrade Borja CI:	Institución: MAG Cargo:	@: [illegible]@yahoo.com Telf: [illegible]	x	•					x		Mestizo	
99	Nombre: David Villamarín CI: 1706566401	Institución: Cargo: Aso Jambelí	@: Telf: 0986906162	x						x		Mestizo	

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ADAPTATION FUND
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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100	Nombre: Segundo Daicela CI: 1704491727	Institución: Asoc Trabajadores Cotaquila Cargo:	@: Telf:	x							x	Indígena	[firma]
101	Nombre: Rodrigo Negrete CI: 0501537123	Institución: Asoc Trabajadores Cotaquila Cargo:	@: rnegrete291@gmail.com Telf:	x							x	Indígena	[firma]
102	Nombre: Mercedes Lutuala CI: 050288072-7	Institución: Sigchos Aso El Último Inca Cargo: Ventas	@: lucita_mc[illegible]@hotmail.com Telf: 0995757362		✓			✓				Mestizo	[firma]
103	Nombre: Alvaro Cofota CI: 0503350006	Institución: Comunidad Cerro Azul Cargo: Representante.	@: doly.ktala@gmail.com Telf: 0998267627	x				✓				Mestizo	[firma]
104	Nombre: Ayala Henry CI: 0503768155	Institución: Organización Perla Andina Cargo: Presidente	@: perlaandinasigchos@gmail.com Telf: 0987295287	x				✓				Mestizo	[firma]
105	Nombre: Emma Sacatoro CI: 050339182-3	Institución: GAD M Sigchos Cargo: Analista Ambiental	@: sacatoroe@yahoo.com Telf: 2060668788		x			✓				Indígena	[firma]
106	Nombre: Flavio Sherio CI: 0504172218	Institución: Último Inca Cargo: Gerente	@: Telf: 0939424789	x					x			Mestizo	[firma]
107	Nombre: Klever Casillas CI: 0503380075	Institución: Granja Yuracsig Cargo:	@: 0982944194 Telf:	x					x			Mestizo	[firma]

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108	Nombre: Guido Sigcha CI: 050224086-9	Institución: CAPM - Isilecho Cargo: Supervisor I.	@: [illegible]fernando@yahoo.es Telf: 0992625405	x						x		Indígena	[firma]
109	Nombre: Edwin Bonilla CI: 0502207756	Institución: Coop Unidad y Progreso Sigchos Cargo: Directivo	@: edwin.bonilla.gomez@yahoo.es Telf: 0983594930	x						x		Mestizo	[firma]
110	Nombre: Carlos Pinto Franco CI: 1804444790	Institución: Ministerio Ambiente y Energía Cargo: Director RH	@: carlos.pinto@ambienteyenergia.gob.ec Telf: 0995096311	x					x			Mestizo	[firma]
111	Nombre: Gisela Suárez CI: 1802377489-	Institución: MAG Cargo: [illegible]	@: [illegible] Telf:		x								[firma]
112	Nombre: Mario Rivera M CI: 050151895-5	Institución: Universidad Técnica de Cotopaxi Cargo: Director de Carrera	@: mario.rivera@utc.edu.ec Telf: 0992521591	x						x		Mestizo	[firma]
113	Nombre: Israel A Coloma T CI: 1804380490	Institución: MAG - [illegible] Cargo: Técnico de Campo	@: [illegible]@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0998775966	x					x			Mestizo	[firma]
114	Nombre: Geovanny Álvarez R. CI: 0503353743	Institución: MAGR Sigchos Cargo: Técnico de Campo	@: galvarez@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0993646534	x					x			Mestizo	[firma]
115	Nombre: Segundo Cobo CI: 0504460895	Institución: Guantucsig Cargo: Productor	@: Telf: 0992359186	x						x		Indígena	[firma]

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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116	Nombre: Dary Lozado CI: 052245870-4	Institución: Hierba Buena Cargo: Reportador	@: [illegible] Telf: 0991441795	x				x				Mestizo	
117	Nombre: [illegible] CI: 0501590404	Institución: Comunidad Hierba Buena Cargo: Presidente	@: [illegible]@gmail.com Telf: 0968066555					64					
118	Nombre: Max González Fuertes CI: 1104890429	Institución: MAGP Cargo: Analista Riego	@: [illegible] Telf: 0780197482	X					X			Mestizo	
119	Nombre: Karla Verónica Jaramillo Jiménez CI: 1722487637	Institución: MAGP - SRPT Cargo: Especialista Riego	@: kjaramillo@mag.gob.ec Telf: 0980439927		X				X			Mestiza	
120	Nombre: Paul Bravo CI: 1712597613	Institución: MAE / SNAP (Rec) Cargo: Guardaparque	@: [illegible]@ambiente.gob.ec Telf: 0987561144	X					X			Mestizo	
121	Nombre: Luis Cevallos V CI: 050153323-3	Institución: MAE Cargo: Técnico	@: luis.cevallos@ambiente.gob.ec Telf: 0987212794	✓						✓		Mestizo	
122	Nombre: Nancy Torres CI: 050263121-1	Institución: GADPPC Dirección Ambiente Cargo: Técnico RN	@: nancy[illegible]@yahoo.es Telf: 0988091511		✓					✓		Mestiza	
123	Nombre: Rosa Chalá Plencastro CI: 1001554573	Institución: SGDPN Cargo: Directora Cap. [illegible]	@: rosa.chala@sgdpn.gob.ec Telf: 0987421323		✓					✓		Afro	

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

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124	Nombre: Cristofer Sirla CI:	Institución: Sigchos Cargo:	@: Telf: 0986887791				X						
125	Nombre: Roberto Muñoz CI:	Institución: Cargo:	@: roberto[illegible]@hotmail Telf:	x					x			Mestizo	
126	Nombre: Luis Romero CI:	Institución: Cargo:	@: [illegible] Telf:	X			X					Mestizo	
127	Nombre: Ricardo [illegible] CI:	Institución: Cargo:	@: [illegible]@hotmail.com Telf:	X					X			Mestizo	
128	Nombre: Andrea Sierra CI: 172910039-9	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: andrea.sierra@fao.org Telf:		X			X				Mestizo	
129	Nombre: Maritza Velez CI:	Institución: FAO Cargo:	@: mery.velez[illegible]@fao.org Telf:		x			x				Mestiza	
	Nombre: CI:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf:										
	Nombre: CI:	Institución: Cargo:	@: Telf:										

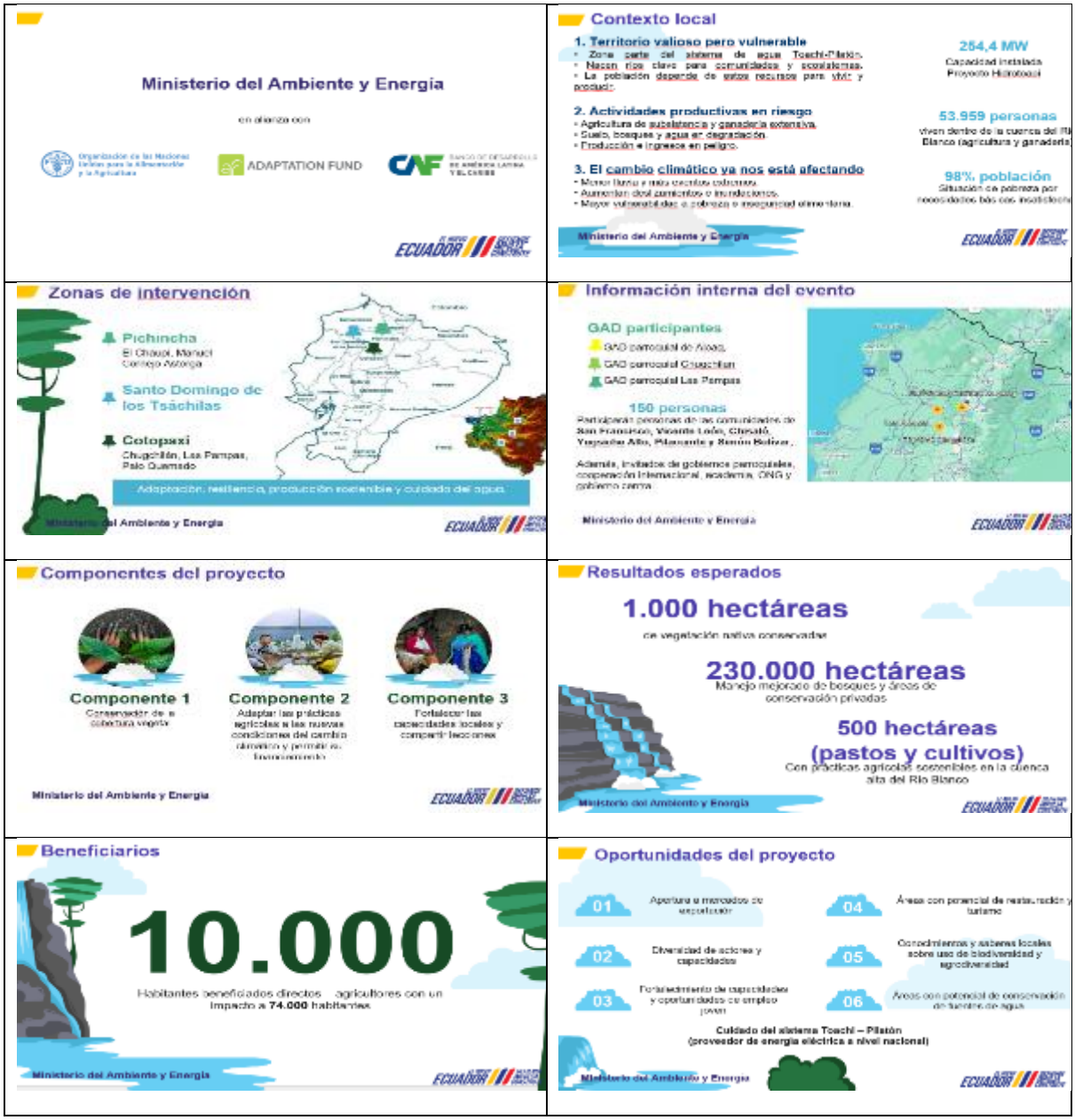
Annex 3: Presentations

Appendix 1: Project Outline: Alignment with the Objectives of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.

Below are some informative slides from the presentation:

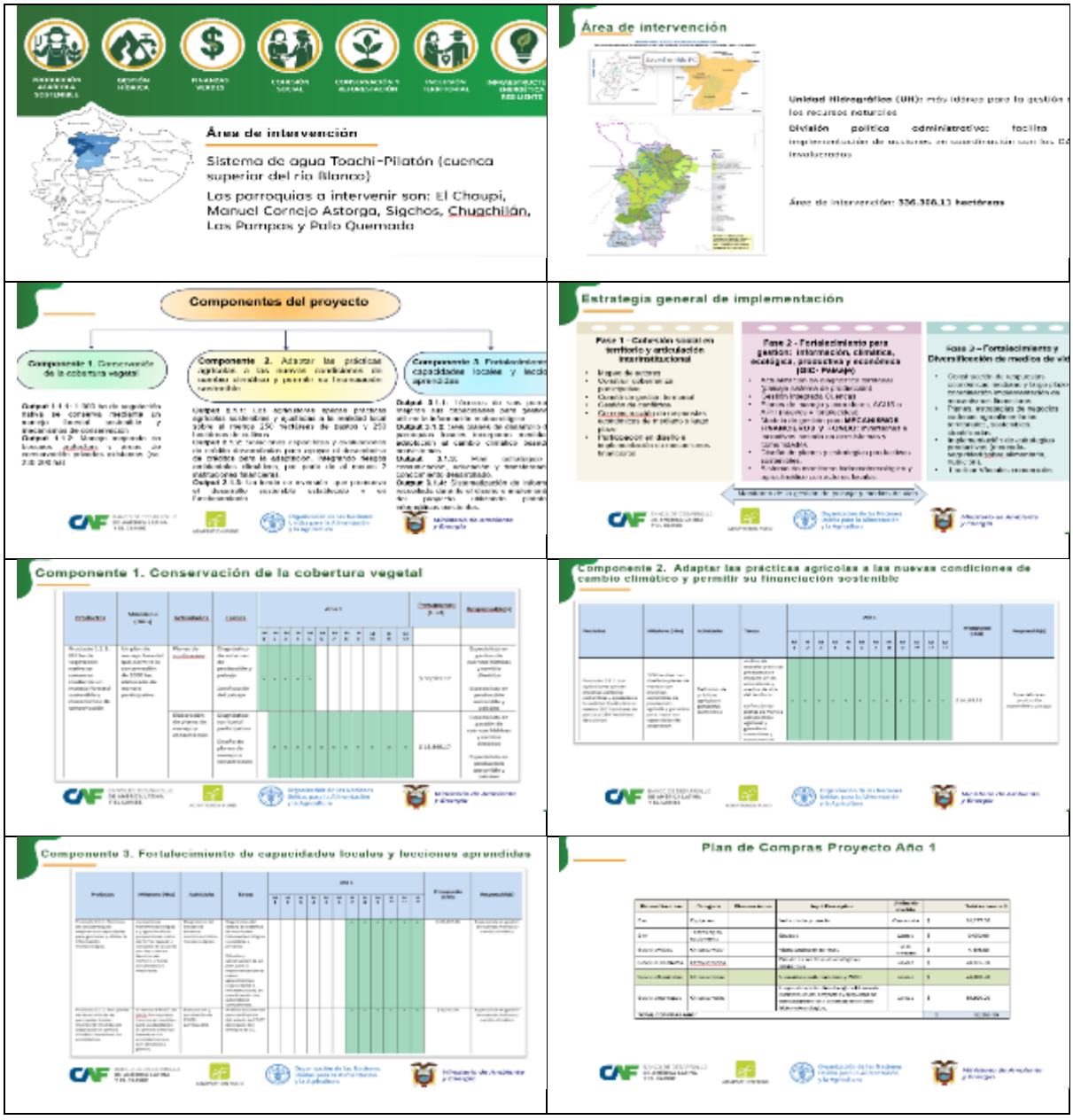
Appendix 2: Importance of the Project for the National Integral Agenda of Climate Change, Agrifood Systems, and Sustainable Energy.

Below are some informative slides from the presentation:



Appendix 3: Project Components, Territories of Work, and Budget, AOP and PAC for Year 1.

Below are some informative slides from the presentation:



Appendix 4: Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Plan and Gender Plan

Below are some informative slides from the presentation:

Annex 4: Methodological Guide Applied During the Workshop

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE		
Topic: Inception Workshop Report Project "Increasing adaptive capacity of local communities, ecosystems and hydroelectric systems in the Río Blanco upper watershed (Toachi-Pilatón watershed) with a focus on Ecosystem and Community Based Adaptation and Integrated Adaptive Watershed Management"	**Facilitators:** Team of FAO Ecuador	
General Objective: Foster dialogue to ensure that all stakeholders, including implementing partners, understand and agree on the project's objectives, goals, and operational framework. **Specific Objectives:** ▪ Obtain inputs, feedback, and agreements regarding the project implementation strategy. ▪ Clarify the project scope based on the core documents and project planning mechanisms. ▪ Present the role of the implementing and executing partners and their contributions to the project. ▪ Foster ownership of the project objectives and goals among participants by identifying the project's potential responses to the needs of their territories.	**Date**: 05 November, 2025 **Location:** Estación Experimental Santa Catalina-INIAP	Asistentes: ▪ National Project Partners: MAE, MAGAP, CELEC. ▪ Public Sector: Provincial, Municipal, and Parish Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) in the working area; Provincial/District Directorates in the working area; Public water, electricity, and sanitation companies. ▪ Water and Irrigation Boards. ▪ Finance Sector: Local savings and credit cooperatives, BAN ECUADOR, FIAS, REM, FONAG, Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC). ▪ Social Sector: Producer organizations of the provinces (MAE-FAO-CAF Projects), Cotopaxi Producers Council, Women's Organizations of Cotopaxi and Santo Domingo, youth collectives. ▪ Communities that are part of the intervention area. ▪ Academia Sector: UTC, ESPE Latacunga and Santo Domingo, U Central, PUCE. ▪ Private Sector: Holcim; CORAPE, Local NGOs.

TIME	ACTIVITIES	CONTENT	MATERIALS	RESPONSIBLE	KEY MESSAGES
Duration	*Themes*	*(How it will be developed)*	*(What will be used)*	*(Who will carry it out)*	*(What must be strengthened)*
30´	Guest Registration	Guests register upon entering the event venue. Registration sheets will be prepared for this purpose.	Company Registration Sheets	FAO	The registration must include names, surnames, phone number, institution, position, gender disaggregation, signature.
15´	Welcome Remarks to the event	The remarks are addressed to the entire audience.	Presentation (project background) Laptop, focus, Screen Microphone Speakers	MAE Representative – Vice Minister of Environment and Coastal Marine	Present the context of the event and its relevance to the local population.
15´	Presentation of the project framework. Alignment with the objectives of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.	Presentation addressed to the entire audience.	Presentation (project background) Laptop (FAO) Focus Screen Microphone Speakers	CAF Representative Mauricio Velázquez	Explain how the project was formulated, who the actors involved in its execution and implementation are, and the origin of the funding.
30´	Presentation of the project for the national comprehensive agenda on climate change, agri-food systems, and sustainable energy. Presentation of the team and implementing partners.	Presentation addressed to the entire audience.	Presentation (project background) Laptop (FAO) Focus Screen Microphone Speakers	FAO Representative Érika Zárate	Explain the relevance of the project in the international, national, and local context, the main actions that will be carried out, and the sectors that will be emphasized during its execution.
10´	Presentation on the project within the framework of climate change adaptation policies in Ecuador.	Presentation addressed to the entire audience.	Presentation Laptop (FAO) Focus Screen Microphone Speakers	Representative of the Undersecretariat of Climate Change MAE	Explain the relevance of the project in the context of climate change management in the country.
50´	Presentation of the project components, working territories and budget, POA and PAC for year 1	Presentation addressed to the entire audience.	Presentation Laptop (FAO) Focus Screen Microphone Speakers	FAO Project Coordination Project Team	Explain the scope, results, products, and goals of the project, intervention area, national and local stakeholders involved, and amounts to be executed.

30´	Round of comments and contributions from project participants, in three working groups: one for each component.	Participants are divided into 3 working groups, one for each component. This distribution is made according to the institution they represent and the role they play within the project. The groups are: - Group 1: Conservation of the soil's vegetation cover and forest cover. - Group 2: Adapting agricultural practices to the new conditions of climate change and allowing for its sustainably climate-smart financing. - Group 3: Strengthening of capacities and lessons learned Each group will have a flipchart with the description of results and goals planned by component (annex 1). The facilitator explains the component of the project and guides the dynamic and the conversation in the groups. Participants analyze and contribute suggestions on the priority activities that should be carried out to achieve what is planned. Each participant writes their contributions on flipchart paper and places them next to the results. The Facilitator addresses questions and systematizes the contributions received. The delegate of each group presents the results in plenary (5 minutes).	Flipcharts, Markers, Adhesive tape, Laptop	FAO - Ecuador team and invited participants	Receive suggestions from the involved actors on the main activities that should be executed for each component to reach the project goals.
40´	Presentation of the project's environmental and social safeguards plan and Gender Plan.	An introductory presentation on the topic is given to the participants using a PPT. Next, the facilitator divides them into 6 subgroups, each consisting of around 12 to 13 people. This varies depending on the total number of participants. Two groups will work on each safeguard group (2 environmental, 2 social, and 2 gender-related) with the purpose of identifying actions to comply with the project's safeguards. Each group will receive a flip chart ready with a matrix. ▪ Group 1 Environmental Safeguards ▪ Group 2 Social Safeguards ▪ Grupo 3 Gender Safeguards ▪ Group 4 Environmental Safeguards Group 5 Social Safeguards ▪ Group 6 Gender Safeguards Each group will be given the matrix where they will fill in their ideas for actions that will serve to comply with the project's safeguards. Each group chooses one woman and one man to present results. For this exercise, they will have 15 minutes for group work and then they can present their work in plenary for 5 minutes per group.	Laptop Printouts 1 liquid chalk marker for each group 1 roll of masking tape per group PPT	FAO Team – Ecuador and invited participants	That each of the participating individuals will contribute from their role and experience in a participatory and horizontal manner.
30´	Agreements on the next steps and project coordination mechanisms.	Presentation addressed to the entire audience.	Presentation Laptop Focus Screen Microphone Speakers	FAO-MAE-CAF	Present the project's next steps in the intervention area, priority actions, communications, and meetings between stakeholders.
15´	Closing and Lunch	Presentation addressed to the entire audience. A workshop evaluation will be carried out at the exit for participants (See Annex 3).	Microphone Speakers Flip chart for evaluation	FAO-MAE-CAF	Thank the participation of local and national stakeholders and reiterate the need to maintain permanent dialogue for the correct execution of the project.

Annex 5: Group Work and Plenary

a. Group Work

Two work blocks were managed. In the first block, 3 groups were formed who actively worked according to the instructions of each co-facilitator, with each group focusing on one of the main components of the project. Subsequently, a plenary session was held to share the results, concerns, and proposals of each group. For the second block, each group was divided into two (a total of 6 working sub-groups) aimed at discussing and strengthening the environmental, social, and gender safeguards of the project. Rounds of questions were generated to present the group work in the plenary session

b. Plenary Sessions

Block 1

Group 1 - Component 1: Conservation of Vegetation Cover

Main Contributions and Concerns:

- The representatives of local communities pointed out that their territory is located within the Zarapullo Protective Forest and the Los Ilinizas Ecological Reserve.
- The need to clearly define the project's direct area of influence and conduct a participatory mapping with local community leaders was highlighted to ensure that the actions reach the communities that actually live in the impact sectors.
- It was requested to identify the native species that will be managed or reforested, to ensure that the activities are ecologically appropriate.
- A warning was made about the interference of mining activities in the conservation zones, which could contradict the objectives of the restoration and conservation project.
- It was asked that the project analyze the compatibility between mining and reforestation, especially in areas already conceded.
- The existence of organic producers (for example, of panela/raw cane sugar), who could lose their organic certifications if nearby mining is permitted, was also mentioned.
- The group proposed to work directly in the territory with the real beneficiaries and not only with delegates, to guarantee community participation and transparency.

Group Conclusion: The project must prioritize the definition of the intervention area, coordination with local actors, protection of ecosystems threatened by mining, and the recognition of existing sustainable productive activities as part of the conservation strategy.

Group 2 - Component 2: Adaptation of Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Financing

Main Contributions:

- The need for clean, sustainable, and sustained production, free of chemicals, that maintains the quality of local products was debated.
- The importance of knowing the real production costs from sowing to commercialization, to sell at fair prices and avoid economic losses was highlighted.
- It was recommended to link local production with formal markets, such as supermarket chains or cooperatives, to guarantee stable and fair incomes.
- The requirement for adequate infrastructure (for example, a clean and efficient processing plant) that allows for the value-added of agricultural and livestock products was raised.
- The need to improve pastures and the quality of livestock to increase productivity was mentioned.
- Some participants expressed concern about the impacts of the Toachi-Pilaton dam, which has caused sediment accumulation and a risk of flooding in populated areas.
- Support was requested to solve the problems of land titling, as many farmers pay taxes without having deeds, which limits their access to credit and benefits.

- It was requested to improve access roads ("guardarrays") to facilitate the movement of agricultural and livestock products to the markets.

Group Conclusion: It is a priority to strengthen sustainable production and access to fair markets, resolve problems of infrastructure, titling, and roads, and guarantee that the project benefits reach the most needed rural producers directly.

Group 3 - Component 3: Strengthening of Local Capacities and Systematization

Main Contributions:

- Representatives from academia (Cotopaxi University Institute) and parish governments participated.
- The need to train both the Rural Autonomous Parish Governments (GADPR) and the communities on topics related to climate change management and adaptation was highlighted.
- The importance of gender equity and ensuring at least 50% participation of women in project activities was underscored.
- It was proposed to create conditions that facilitate the attendance of women at training sessions (such as spaces for childcare and child stimulation).
- It was suggested to strengthen the link between academia, local governments, and rural communities, so that technical knowledge is applied in the territory through outreach and applied research projects.
- It was emphasized that training sessions should be carried out directly in the communities, considering the difficulties of mobility and internet access in rural areas.
- The need to protect the páramo (high-altitude grasslands) and water recharge zones was mentioned, as well as limiting the expansion of the agricultural frontier to conserve soils and water sources.

Group Conclusion: Capacity building must be participatory, inclusive, and territorial, with a strong focus on gender, social justice, and inter-institutional collaboration between academia and rural communities.

During the plenary session, it was highlighted that:

- The three groups agreed on the need to work directly in the territory, prioritizing the communities with greater vulnerability and participation.
- A consensus was evident regarding the importance of integrating environmental conservation with sustainable productive development, respecting local realities.
- The role of women, youth, and local people in decision-making was emphasized.

Next, María Clara, FAO's Gender Specialist, presented the final report on environmental, social, and gender safeguards, reminding the audience that:

- The project must protect nature and the rights of people.
- The actions must guarantee equality, participation, and equitable benefits.
- An Environmental and Social Management Plan and a Gender Action Plan will be implemented, featuring participatory monitoring, an inclusive approach, and respect for cultural diversity.
- The project has been classified as **moderate risk**, with specific measures to prevent environmental and social impacts.

Block 2
Subgroup 1 and 2– Safeguards Discussion

Main Contributions:

- River protection and watershed approach:
  It was proposed to form community technical committees for the protection of rivers, integrating topics such as conservation, mining, and contamination, under a comprehensive watershed approach.
- Reforestation and ecological restoration:
  It was recommended to plant native trees and riparian vegetation around rivers and streams to prevent erosion and contamination.
  The utilization of community nurseries and seedbeds and the support of the National Landscape Restoration Project (PNRP) to provide seeds and plants was raised.

- Water quality and treatment:
  It was proposed to train communities in the management and treatment of water before it is discharged into natural sources, involving both local companies and community users.
- Sustainable agricultural practices:
  It was suggested to reduce the use of agrochemicals and pesticides, recovering ancestral practices such as the use of natural repellent plants in crops.
- Financing and sustainability:
  The need to ensure adequate financing to execute environmental protection actions and strengthen local leaderships was emphasized.

Group Conclusion: The group reaffirmed the importance of managing water resources from a watershed perspective, strengthening ecological restoration with community participation, and guaranteeing financial resources to sustain conservation actions.

Subgroup 3 and 4 – Social Safeguards

Main Contributions:

- Community and organizational participation:
  - Reinforce the participation of communities in decision-making.
  - Reformulate regulations to promote participation and empowerment, especially of women.
  - Strengthen local organizations, creating focal groups and training workshops to improve management and leadership.
- Respect for territory and livelihoods:
  - Protect ancestral territories and promote sustainable practices with incentives for conservation.
  - Implement a REDD+ strategy (reducing deforestation and degradation) and conserve biodiversity.
- Fair and collaborative work:
  - Promote equal pay between men and women and the equitable distribution of tasks.
  - Promote payment for results and the revaluation of community work, such as mingas (collective communal work).
- Complaint and suggestion mechanisms:
  - Create oversight committees, physical and virtual mailboxes, and use technological platforms for feedback and monitoring.
  - Designate trained personnel to follow up on producers' concerns.
- Right to information and transparency:
  - It was observed that many times the data collected in the territory is not provided to the communities.
  - It was proposed to conduct communication workshops, minutes with clear commitments and sanctions, and disseminate information through official social networks, megaphones, and community flip charts.

Group Conclusion: The need to strengthen community governance, guarantee transparency and effective participation of rural communities, and ensure that the project benefits are equitable and known by all local actors was highlighted.

Subgroup 5 and 6 – Gender Safeguards

Main Contributions:

- Participation of women in the field:
  - Acknowledge the time limitations and domestic responsibilities faced by rural women.
  - Organize training workshops in nearby locations, with flexible schedules and spaces for childcare, allowing their participation.
- Co-responsibility and domestic equity:
  - Encourage the collaboration of men in household chores and family care to facilitate female leadership.
  - Promote concrete and timely training sessions that value the participants' time.
- Recognition and valuation of female work:
  - Create bonuses or incentives for women who actively participate in community activities and the project.

  - Generate safe exchange spaces where women can share experiences, knowledge, and strengthen their self-esteem.
- Violence prevention and mutual respect:
  - Promote sensitization workshops for men and women on respect, sexuality, boundaries, and coexistence.
  - Promote agreements on respect in workshops and community solidarity mechanisms in cases of domestic violence.
- Family revaluation and transmission of values:
  - Recover the values of respect, equity, and co-responsibility within the home.
  - Educate the new generations in gender equality and disseminate women's protection and rights laws.

Group Conclusion: It was emphasized that gender equity and female empowerment are essential pillars for the sustainability of the project. The full participation of women requires logistical, cultural, and educational adjustments that promote real social change.

In the plenary session, the results of the three groups were presented, highlighting the commitment of all institutions and territorial actors.

The common points were:

- The need for participatory work in the territory, with an integrated and inclusive management approach.
- The recognition that, without financing, organization, and equity, the project's objectives cannot be sustained.
- The urgency of harmonizing environmental, social, and gender actions in all phases of the project.

Cecilia Ponce from FAO thanked all actors and institutions for their participation, emphasizing that this workshop marks the official beginning of the project's implementation.

Safeguards Matrices (Sub-group Work)

SUBGROUP 1	MEN	WOMEN
Safeguards Management	- Implement local nurseries.	- Protect river sources.
Reforestation and protection of seedlings Avoid water contamination Biodiversity conservation	- Buy agroforestry inputs and products using local technical knowledge. - Implement a water harvesting system for the nurseries, using gutters for harvesting and storing water. - Analyze and monitor agroecosystems. - Develop a management plan for the farms. - Financing mechanisms.	- Reforest with native products and agroforestry species. - Care for pollinators and other wildlife species.
Sustainable soil use and agroecological practices		- Integrated river management. - Organic waste management through simple composting systems.
Integrated river basin management.		- Establish boundaries of riverbanks near water sources. - Produce food using agroecology techniques.
SUBGROUP 2	**MEN**	**WOMEN**
Safeguards Management	- Implement nurseries with native plants.	- Implement a bio-factory compatible with good agroecological practices and good water management. - Implement UPAS Forest management plans.

Reforestation and protection of seedlings	- Purchase seeds in areas with biological reserves.	
Avoid water contamination Care for biodiversity	- Conduct physical-chemical analyses of water. - Use kits to measure water quality and quantity of the juntas. - Implement nurseries with plants that attract pollinators.	- Work on bio-composting with fungi. - Plant vine species (mortiño)
Sustainable soil use and agroecological practices	- Conduct environmental education Waste Management Restoring with ecosystems degraded by fires - Establishment of water discharge zones	
Integrated river management	- Reforestation of areas near rivers with protective species.	- Construction of wastewater treatment plants for livestock and poultry producers. - Implementation of nurseries with local species. - Oxidation ponds.

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	MEN	WOMEN
What activities would be carried out to generate the 1000-hectare corridor?	Identify the current status of forests, especially conservation areas.	- The proposal is how the intervention areas are known; activities are already being carried out in the zone. - In Palo Quemado, there are three water sources that must be conserved; the sectors are Pandalea and Santa Rosa. - Since conservation is already taking place, the sector is polluted. - In Alluquín, we do not have forest, but we do have conservation areas. - The environmental directorate of Cotopaxi specifies where the intervention zone of the Río Blanco Project is located. - Prepare management plans in situ with existing vegetation material. - At the productive level, San Pablo must be used; they have most productive areas. - We do not have structures, but commitments are made and payments for ecosystem services are ongoing, and these are conservation reserves. - A revegetation and landscape restoration project should be included. - Strengthen teamwork with technical personnel from the sector; real data are collected. - The technicians work with young people and local women leaders.	- Sichos reserves Los Illinizas and Yasuni; it is necessary to identify and work with the areas of influence for forest restoration, assessing existing species. - From the total area, 70% must be identified as degraded hectares, including species, land uses, and risks; these areas must be identified to see the benefits for the producer and the project. - In the case of Chucchilpa, reforestation would be the priority activity since there is no productive sector. - The municipalities have identified water basins and flow levels. - The benefits are from the field and from the producer, because producers are producers due to the plots allocated for food production and water supply in the lower areas of the Toachi. - The Mejía GAD has established and supported the productive sector. - In Palo Quemado, the panela factory has 8 organic certifications, so we have women's groups. - InPalo Quemado, the panela factory has 8 organic certifications, so we have women's groups.

Social Safeguards

SUB-GROUP 1 and SUB-GROUP 2	PROPOSALS
Community participation in decision-making	▪ Reformulation of regulations ▪ Awareness-raising and empowerment of women ▪ Organizational strengthening ▪ Targeted surveys ▪ Strengthening of soft skills ▪ Educational workshops
Respect for territory and livelihoods	▪ Worldview/cosmology of the territories ▪ Conservation of ancestral practices ▪ Biodiversity conservation ▪ Incentives for conservation ▪ Improvement of REDD+ biocorridors
Fair and collaborative work	▪ Fair payments for men and women ▪ Equitable distribution of activities ▪ Resume agreements with performance-based payments
Grievance and suggestion mechanisms	▪ Oversight committees ▪ Suggestion and grievance box ▪ Use of technology and platforms for feedback ▪ Reform of internal statutes of organizations ▪ Trained staff for evaluation who also know the territory
Right to information and transparency	▪ Communication and outreach workshops ▪ Feedback and socialization ▪ Supporting documents (minutes, lists, etc.) ▪ Sanctions for entities that fail to comply ▪ Use of official institutional social networks ▪ Community dissemination mechanisms (megaphones, flipcharts)

Gender safeguards

SUB-GROUP 1	PROPOSALS
Participation of women in the field and in decision-making	▪ Education ▪ Workshops in the territory/plots/communities ▪ Respect for women's opinion
Accessible schedules for women	▪ Reduce women's workload and working hours ▪ Concrete workshops, short time—punctuality ▪ Preserve schedules – advance planning
Recognition of care work	▪ Better distribution of care and household tasks ▪ Recognition bonuses linked to commitment ▪ Insurance for women (family–state contribution)
Listening to diverse voices	▪ Strengthen social fabric; start at home ▪ Exchange opinions in daily spaces (local shops, school area)
Prevention of violence and mutual respect	▪ Train men on gender-based violence; promote agreements for mutual respect within the project ▪ Sexual education at all levels ▪ Community solidarity: inform and report
SUB-GROUP 2	**PROPOSALS**
Participation of women in the field and in decision-making	▪ Empower women ▪ Dialogue beginning at home – planning ▪ Respect women's proposals ▪ Listen to and respect decisions
Accessible schedules for women	▪ Laws

	▪ Single mothers ▪ Interviews at appropriate times
Recognition of care work	▪ Planning ▪ Value daily contributions and time ▪ Labor distribution recognizing that women work more
Listening to diverse voices	▪ Meetings, training sessions, and education ▪ Ensure spaces for dialogue exist ▪ Self-esteem ▪ Improve women's participation in meetings ▪ Mutual dialogue
Prevention of violence and mutual respect	▪ Awareness / training based on human rights, values, community justice ▪ Women's interests (co-responsibility)

Annex 6: Minutes of the First Steering Committee

ACTA I COMITÉ DIRECTIVO

Proyecto: "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

El día 30 de octubre de 2025, en la ciudad de Quito, Ecuador, se llevó a cabo la sesión del I Comité Directivo del Proyecto "Aumento de la capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en la cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón)". La reunión se desarrolló de manera presencial, con opción a conexión virtual, en las instalaciones del Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía. La convocatoria fue realizada por el Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía, en conjunto con la CAF – Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe, en su calidad de Entidad Implementadora del proyecto ante el Fondo de Adaptación. Participaron representantes de las instituciones integrantes del Comité Directivo:

Nombre	Institución	Cargo
Jessica Gallegos	MAE	Subsecretaria Cambio Climático
Mauricio Velásquez	CAF	Ejecutivo Principal
Angelica Pino	CAF	Asesora de Seguimiento de Proyecto AF
Erika Zárate	FAO	Assistant Faor Programe
Daysy Cárdenas	MAE	Directora DACC
Yessenia Alquinga	MAE	Técnico DACC
Cecilia Ponce	FAO	Coordinadora de proyectos
Ana Andrade	FAO	Especialista Técnica en Gestión de Cuencas Hídricas y Cambio Climático
Jhoana Parreño	FAO	Especialista Técnica en Producción Sostenible y Paisajes
José Beltrán	FAO	Especialista en Monitoreo
Maritza Velez	FAO	Asistente técnica y de monitoreo

Se desarrollaron los siguientes puntos, conforme al orden del día, los detalles de lo tratado se incluyen en la sección de anexos:

a. **Temas a tratar**
   1. Resumen del proyecto y revisión del modelo de gobernanza y roles del Comité Directivo y Comité Técnico CAF.
   2. Revisión y validación del presupuesto CAF
   3. Presentación del POA y PAC del primer año Equipo FAO
   4. Presentación de próximas acciones y preparación del taller de arranque Equipo FAO
   5. Preguntas y comentarios adicionales
   6. Acuerdos

b. **Desarrollo**

1. Resumen del proyecto y revisión del modelo de gobernanza y roles del Comité Directivo y Comité Técnico:

CAF representado por Angélica Pino presentó una síntesis técnica y estratégica del proyecto, estructura de ejecución y objetivos clave. Se socializó el modelo de gobernanza aprobado por el Fondo de Adaptación, adaptado a la nueva institucionalidad del Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía.

Análisis del modelo de gobernanza actualizado

Se destacó el rol del Comité Directivo como el espacio de mayor nivel estratégico para validar decisiones clave. Además, se informó sobre las acciones previstas para la instalación del Comité Técnico.

En consecuencia, a las modificaciones institucionales (de SENAGUA al MAATE y MAATE al actual MAE), es necesario elaborar un Manual Operativo (noviembre–enero) que actualice la información sobre el modelo de gobernanza que, describa: roles, procedimientos y responsabilidades, a aprobarse en la próxima sesión del Comité Directivo.

CAF propone que para ajustar a la conformación original del PRODOC el comité técnico pueda conformarse con los siguientes referentes técnicos: Viceministerio del Agua (1), Viceministerio de Ambiente y Marino Costero (2) (Adaptación y Conservación), MAGP (1), CAF (1)y FAO (1).

Desde la Subsecretaría de Cambio Climático se menciona la conformidad y sugieren identificar a los puntos focales técnicos que se ajusten a las características del proyecto y a las competencias de las unidades de los viceministerios. FAO recomienda que en el comité técnico se puede abrir la participación de otras entidades en calidad de invitados de acuerdo con los temas o componentes a tratar, sin embargo, debe existir una estructura estable con participantes estables. Se contempla también los espacios locales de participación y consulta con mayor apertura para su conformación.

Los ajustes aprobados con los siguientes:

Comité Directivo:

- Integrantes: Autoridad Designada Nacional (MAE), CAF (Mauricio Velásquez) y FAO (representante).
- Funciones: Aprobación de POA, PAC, presupuestos y decisiones estratégicas.

Comité Técnico:

- Integrado por representantes técnicos de: Viceministerio del Agua, Viceministerio del Ambiente y Marino Costero (Adaptación y Conservación), MAGP, CAF y FAO.
- Rol: Orientación y validación técnica (sin carácter decisorio).

- Se mantendrá reducido (máx. 6 miembros) y podrá convocar expertos adicionales.

Conclusiones:

- Se aprueba la estructura actualizada de gobernanza.
- Se acuerda la elaboración inmediata del Manual Operativo.
- MAE y CAF ajustarán roles conforme a nuevas divisiones viceministeriales.

Se ratifica mantener una gobernanza simple, técnica y funcional.

2. Revisión y validación del presupuesto:

CAF expuso el ajuste presupuestario requerido para la fase operativa del proyecto.

Se presentó la primera revisión presupuestaria oficial del proyecto, el que, muestra una variación del 9,44% respecto al presupuesto inicial. El Fondo de Adaptación considera esta revisión como la primera versión válida, que no requiere aprobación de la Junta (por ser <20%).

Este ajuste fue revisado y validado por los miembros del Comité Directivo, reconociéndose que deberá seguir el proceso formal ante el Fondo de Adaptación para su aprobación definitiva. El comité expresó su compromiso con el cumplimiento de los procedimientos establecidos por el Fondo.

Requerimientos y procesos para aprobación de reforma de presupuesto

- El MAE, como Autoridad Nacional designada, debe emitir carta formal de aprobación del ajuste presupuestario.
- El informe técnico ya fue remitido a la Subsecretaría de Cambio Climático.
- CAF confirmó haber tomado conocimiento y validado el ajuste.

Plazos y observaciones

- La carta formal debe emitirse antes del Taller de Inicio (5 de noviembre) o, en su defecto, antes del 5 de diciembre, fecha límite del reporte inicial de FAO al Fondo de Adaptación.
- FAO dispone de 15 días desde el inicio oficial para enviar memoria de taller de arranque.
- El MAE explicó que las demoras responden a recientes cambios ministeriales y reasignaciones de competencias.
- CAF y FAO expresaron comprensión y solicitaron ser informados del avance.
- Se ratificó la aprobación técnica del ajuste presupuestario, quedando pendiente solo la carta formal.

3. Presentación del POA y PAC del primer año:

FAO representado por Cecilia Ponce presentó el Plan Operativo Anual (POA) y el Plan Anual de Compras (PAC) correspondientes al primer año de ejecución. Se revisaron sus principales

componentes y el cronograma operativo asociado. Tras el análisis respectivo, los instrumentos fueron aprobados por el Comité.

Componentes correspondientes al primer año de ejecución:

Conservación de cobertura vegetal: Diagnósticos de paisaje, planes de manejo forestal y restauración.

Adaptación agrícola y financiamiento: Prácticas productivas sostenibles, mecanismos financieros verdes y diseño del fondo de inversión climática.

Fortalecimiento institucional y sistematización: Capacitación, mesas agroclimáticas, PDOT y plataforma de información.

Presupuesto total del POA Año 1: USD 203.250,92.

A continuación, Daysy Cárdenas, directora de la DACC del MAE, señala la necesidad de profundizar en el presupuesto y enfatiza que, para la intervención en la cuenca, es indispensable elaborar una línea base que permita evaluar la efectividad del proyecto. Recomienda aprovechar las lecciones aprendidas del Eba LAC (GIZ) y coordinar con las áreas competentes del MAE para cualquier actualización de planes de manejo de áreas protegidas. Indica que las prácticas de producción sostenible deben alinearse con el Plan Nacional de Adaptación, utilizando análisis de riesgo climático como punto de partida.

Destaca la importancia de metodología/s participativas como las escuelas de campo, tomadas de Ganadería Climáticamente Inteligente, y de articular los esfuerzos con la Estrategia Nacional de Financiamiento Climático. Sugiere que el proyecto se integre al proceso de activación del Fondo Ambiental, evitando la creación de fondos paralelos. Recomienda coordinar con INAMHI para priorizar estaciones meteorológicas y pausar las mesas agroclimáticas hasta clarificar la gobernanza con el MAG.

Propone que el proyecto aporte al análisis de la incorporación e implementación del cambio climático en los PDOT, y que toda la información generada se alimente directamente al Registro Nacional de Cambio Climático, evitando plataformas adicionales. Finalmente, refuerza que todas estas recomendaciones buscan evitar la duplicación de esfuerzos, dar sostenibilidad a los instrumentos nacionales y articular las acciones del proyecto con la política pública existente e indica que el financiamiento del proyecto es limitado y que, por ello, es fundamental que el equipo técnico interno genere análisis y diagnósticos basados en la información ya disponible y en experiencias previas.

Observaciones institucionales:

- **MAE:** Recomendó sustituir o complementar diagnósticos por líneas base de adaptación, coordinar planes de manejo con la Dirección Nacional de Bosques, vincular acciones con estrategias nacionales (EFICC, PDOT, CBIT), incluir mayor detalle en el alcance del POA, se analizó el alcance de cada actividad, y se recomienda evitar la duplicación de esfuerzos con otras iniciativas.

- **CAF:** Sugirió coherencia técnica entre POA y PAC y revisiones trimestrales conjuntas.
- **FAO:** Aceptó los ajustes propuestos y confirmó presentación final del PAC.

Conclusión:
El Comité Directivo aprueba el POA y PAC del primer año, con posibilidad de ajustes menores posteriores al taller de arranque.

4. Presentación de próximas acciones y preparación del Taller de Arranque

Objetivo

Definir acciones logísticas y técnicas para el Taller de Inicio del Proyecto Río Blanco, considerado el evento formal de arranque operativo.

Aspectos organizativos en marcha:

- Elaborada y enviada convocatoria conjunta FAO–Subsecretaría de Cambio Climático a actores institucionales, gobiernos locales y comunidades.
- Lugar confirmado: Estación Científica Experimental Santa Catalina, Cantón Mejía.
- Proceso de confirmación de participación de ministerios, GADs y comunidades.
- Logística asegurada (transporte, equipos, materiales, alimentación).

Agenda propuesta:

1. Registro y apertura (8:00–9:00).
2. Bienvenida – Viceministra de Ambiente y Marino Costero
3. Presentación del proyecto – CAF.
4. Intervención de FAO.
5. Visión del MAE.
6. Presentación técnica: componentes, territorios y POA/PAC.
7. Trabajo en grupos para análisis y aportes por cada componente.
8. Presentación del Plan de Salvaguardas Ambientales, Sociales y de Género.
9. Trabajo en grupos para reflexión y aportes sobre Plan de Salvaguardas Ambientales, Sociales y de Género.
10. Plenaria y cierre.

Enfoques prioritarios para el taller de arranque:

- Comunicación clara a comunidades sobre beneficios y alcances del proyecto.
- Fortalecimiento de la articulación interinstitucional y trabajo colaborativo

- Integración transversal de salvaguardas, género y derechos desde el arranque y en toda la ejecución del proyecto.

4. Presentación de próximas acciones y preparación del taller de arranque:

Se explicó la propuesta metodológica y logística para el desarrollo del taller de inicio, previsto para el 5 de noviembre de 2025. Se acordó que este evento marcará el inicio formal del proyecto y permitirá alinear a los actores clave en torno a los objetivos del proyecto.

5. Preguntas y comentarios adicionales:

Los miembros del Comité formularon comentarios y observaciones sobre los puntos tratados.

- **Seguridad territorial:**

  Se acordó coordinar con la Unidad de Policía Ambiental de Tandapi (Alluriquin) para reforzar el control forestal de las zonas de intervención, conforme a lo comprometido en el presupuesto.

  CAF propuso apoyo logístico (movilidad) según disponibilidad.

- **Salvaguardas y género:**

  El MAE enfatizó destacar el Plan de Salvaguardas durante el taller, alineado al Plan de Acción de Género y Cambio Climático Nacional.

- **Coordinación:**

  Se ratificó la aprobación oficial del POA y PAC, y la importancia del trabajo articulado entre FAO, CAF y MAE, además de los actores locales.

6. Acuerdos:

1. **Estructura de gobernanza:**
   Se aprueba la actualización de la estructura institucional (Comité Directivo y Técnico).
2. **Manual Operativo:**

   FAO y CAF elaborarán el Manual Operativo entre noviembre y enero; será presentado en la próxima reunión para aprobación formal.
3. **Presupuesto:**

   Se valida la primera revisión presupuestaria (variación del 9,44%), pendiente únicamente de carta formal del MAE.

4. **POA y PAC:**

   Se aprueban los instrumentos del primer año, con ajustes menores posteriores al taller de inicio.

5. **Taller de arranque:**

   Confirmado para el 5 de noviembre en Santa Catalina, con logística, contenidos y participantes definidos y en marcha.

6. **Salvaguardas, género y seguridad:**

   Se acuerda integrar transversalmente los enfoques ambientales, sociales y de género, y coordinar con la Policía Ambiental de Tandapi para garantizar la mejora de infraestructura en control forestal en territorio.

7. **Seguimiento conjunto:**

   CAF, FAO y MAE mantendrán reuniones trimestrales de seguimiento técnico y financiero

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

REGISTRO DE ASISTENCIA

Fecha:		Evento:		Total participantes:	
Lugar y hora:		Responsable:			

No.	Nombre cédula	Institución/Organización (Cargo)	Correo electrónico Teléfono	Género			Rango Edad					Autoidentificación étnica	Firma
				M	F	Otro	18-25 años	26-35 años	36-45 años	46-64 años	Más 65 años		
1		CAF		X						X			
2					X				X				
3		FAO			X					X			
4		MAE			X					X			
5		FAO		X				X					
6		MAE-DNCA			X				X				
7		FAO			X						X		

Proyecto "Aumento de capacidad de adaptación de comunidades locales, ecosistemas y sistemas hidroeléctricos en cuenca alta del río Blanco (Toachi-Pilatón) con enfoque en la adaptación basada en ecosistema y comunidad, y gestión adaptativa de cuencas hidrográficas"

REGISTRO DE ASISTENCIA

Fecha:		Evento:		Total participantes:	
Lugar y hora:		Responsable:			

No.	Nombre cédula	Institución/Organización (Cargo)	Correo electrónico Teléfono	Género			Rango Edad					Autoidentificación étnica	Firma
				M	F	Otro	18-25 años	26-35 años	36-45 años	46-64 años	Más 65 años		
8		FAO			X				X				
9		FAO			X				X				

Firmas:

JESSICA STEFANIA GALLEGOS YANDUN	VELASQUEZ MAURICIO	ERIKA ALEXANDRA ZARATE SACA
Jessica Gallegos MAE	Mauricio Velásquez CAF	Erika Zárate FAO

Annex 7: Year 1 Operational Plan

Annual Operational Plan – Río Blanco Project																				
Products	**Milestone**	**Activities**	**Tasks**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Year 1** MESES												**Budget line**		**Budget (USD)**	**Responsible person(s)**
						1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**Item**	**Detail**		
Component 1. Conserve vegetation cover																					
Output 1: 1,000 ha of native vegetation is conserved by sustainable forest management and conservation mechanisms.	A forest management plan that allows the conservation of 2000 hectares prepared in a participatory manner.	Zoning Plans	Diagnosis of production systems and landscape Landscape Zoning	Technical document	1	x	x	x	x	x								Specialist		$ 38,501.17	Specialist in watershed management and climate change
		Development of management and conservation plans	Participatory territorial diagnosis Design of management and conservation plans	Technical document	1		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 18,395.17	Watershed Management and Climate Change Specialist
Output 2: Improved management of existing protected forests and private conservation areas (ca. 230,000 ha)	Two territories of hydrogeological priority protected and under sustainable management in the basin.	Strategy for articulating PDOTs with a watershed approach	Identify and characterize areas, basins of hydro-ecological priority. Analysis of environmental and water components in PDOT Articulate the conservation of areas under conservation mechanisms with the planning of the GADs and their current PDOTs.	Technical document	1										x	x	x	Specialist		$ 15,132.00	Specialist in watershed management and climate change
		Development of management plans for protective forests	Participatory territorial diagnosis Analysis and systematization of experiences (community, public and private) of management of protected forests present in the area Design or updating of management plans for protective forests.	Plan	1							x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 15,475.00	Specialist in watershed management and climate change. Specialist in sustainable production and landscapes

Component 2: Adapt farming practices to new climate change conditions and enable their climate smart financing																						
Output 3: 250 ha of pasture and 250 ha of crops apply sustainable farming practices	500 families have designed management plans with sustainable agricultural and livestock production practices to improve their adaptive capacities.	Defining sustainable farming and livestock practices	Analysis of current production practices and impact on the ecosystems and livelihoods of the territory. Definition of management plans with sustainable and regenerative agricultural and livestock practices.	Plan	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 14,183.33	Specialist in sustainable production and landscapes
Output 4: At least 2 institutions have introduced specific solutions and risk assessment methodology to support the disbursement of credits for adaptation, integrate sustainable and climate smart criteria in their operations.	At least 2 partnerships with financial institutions for the implementation of gender-sensitive financial mechanisms for climate change adaptation	Incorporation of financial solutions that include sustainable credit tools in financial institutions	Mapping and characterization (typologies) of sustainable productive initiatives underway that require and show conditions to access credit tools or other types of financial solutions. Diagnosis of financial solutions available in the area approaches to sustainability, environment and youth.	Technical document	1		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 17,457.00	Technician in Incentives, Climate Finance and Value Chains
			Design of a training plan for financial institutions on EbA, sustainability and climate change issues and design of sustainable financial products.	Training Plan and Report	1						x	x	x	x				Specialist		$ 11,800.00	Technician in Incentives, Climate Finance and Value Chains
Output 5: One investment fund to promote sustainable development is set up and operational	1 Investment fund for the sustainable development of the upper basin of Río Blanco is active and in operation	Incorporation of financial solutions that include sustainable credit tools in financial institutions	Analysis of national and regional experiences on investment funds and incentives. Analysis of the legal frameworks enabling the constitution of an investment and incentive fund.	Technical document	1			x	x	x								Specialist		$ 18,665.33	Technician in Incentives, Climate Finance and Value Chains

Component 3: Strengthen local capacities and share lessons																					
Output 6: at least 6 parishes being trained to take care and use meteorological information generated by meteorological stations currently installed.	4 hydrometeorological and agroclimatic stations provide data on a regular basis and located in accordance with INAMHI's technical criteria, and MAGP updated or improved.	Diagnosis of the status of hydrometeorological monitoring systems	Diagnosis of the state of state and private hydrometeorological monitoring systems. Dissemination and construction of a plan for the implementation of agroclimatic tables (capacities and infrastructure) in coordination with competent authorities.	Technical document	1							x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 29,457.00	Specialist in watershed management and climate change
Output 7: Six development plans of local parishes incorporate measures for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change	At least 6 Parish GADs PDOTs incorporate measures for ecosystem-based climate change adaptation that are gender-sensitive	Preparation and approval of parish PDOTs	Documentary analysis to verify the status of parish PDOT with a CC approach.	Technical document	1							x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 9,250.00	Specialist in watershed management and climate change
Output 8: Strategic plan of communication, education, knowledge transference and scheme of replica.	At least 1 information platform that collects locally generated information systematizes lessons learned by the project and supports knowledge sharing.	Development and implementation of the communication and dissemination strategy of the project	Diagnosis of available information Diagnosis of information and communication needs of local actors. Design of communication products that accompany all phases of the project with the participation of all local actors and stakeholders.	Communication strategy and products	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 3,750.00	Communication Specialist
		Monitoring and follow-up of the project and its activities	Training the team on the use of project monitoring tools and platforms. Prepare monitoring reports according to tool periodicity.	Plan and reports	4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Specialist		$ 11,184.93	Project Coordinator / Monitoring and Follow-up
																				$ 203,250.92	

Procurement Planning and Monitoring Template

Activity Code	Goods/Services	Category	Project's Name & Symbol	Observations	Input Description	Unit of Measure	Estimated Total cost in $
6100 Non-expendable procurement	Good	Equipment	GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	NA	Project Vehicle	Pickup truck	$ 24,177.00
6101 Non-expendable procurement	Good	Technological equipments	GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	NA	Equipment	Laptop	$ 9,000.00
5900 Travel	Services	Other services	GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	MA	Local travel in the territory	Days/person	$ 4,108.00
5650 Contracts	Services	Other services	GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)		Ecological and Economic Zoning Study	Unit	$ 20,165.00
5650 Contracts	Services	Other services	GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	To be changed on first modification request	Water System Consulting & PDOT	Unit	$ 24,000.00
5650 Contracts	Services	Other services	GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)		Hydroclimatological diagnosis of the area of intervention of the project and proposal to strengthen the hydrometeorological monitoring system.	Unit	$ 10,800.00
							$ 92,250.00

Project's Name & Symbol/ Componente/ Producto	Description	Valor
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Project Coordinator	$ 37,575.00
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Agricultural and Forestry Promoters	$ 9,432.00
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Agroproductive Specialist	$ 24,000.00
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Incentive Specialist	$ 24,000.00
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Communication Specialist	$ 3,000.00
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Technical Assistant	$ 11,851.04
GCP /ECU/100/DBL(654744)	Social Safeguards Specialist	$ 1,142.88
	TOTAL	$ 111,000.92

Annex 8: Communication and dissemination of the initial workshop (photographic record)

Photographic repository link:https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ApYrTTmCrJoQbdXI7c-oXDKKQNVrHsX1?usp=sharing

Figure 12. Welcome delivered by the MAE (Vice Minister)

Figure 2. CAF Presentation

Figure 3. FAO presentation

Figure 4. Presentation of MAE DACC

Figure 5. Group 3 Work Tables

Figure 6. Group plenary