



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY:

Country/Region: Argentina/Latin America and Caribbean

Project Title: Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina facing climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices

Thematic Focal Area: Multisector

Implementing Entity: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

Executing Entities: National Directorate of Planning and Environmental Management of the Territory, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation

AF Project ID:

IE Project ID:

Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 10,000,000

Reviewer and contact person: Micol Ullmann Auger

Co-reviewer(s): Patricia Marcos Huidobro

IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary

The project "Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina facing climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices" aims to contribute to the adaptation of rural communities in the drylands of northwestern Argentina, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. This will be done through the four components below:

Component 1: Improve access to water and promote Sustainable Land Management Practices (SLMP) in rural populations of the NOA Cuyo to reduce their vulnerability to CC. (USD 4,362,100).

Component 2: Strengthening organizations and rural women and diversities for adaptation to CC (USD 306,637).

Component 3: Financing and added local value (USD 2,625,269).

Component 4: Project management, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management (USD 1,110, 367).

Requested financing overview:

Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 787,734

Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 9,192,105

Implementing Fee: USD 807,893

Financing Requested: USD 10,000,000

	The initial technical review raises several issues such as the need to carry out a consultative process with project stakeholders, include an initial gender assessment, provide more information on financial sustainability, and reduce the management fee, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.
Date:	January 24, 2022

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments	RIE Response
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol?	Yes.	N/A
	2. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	Yes. The drylands of north-western Argentina suffer from water deficits, severe seasonal rainfall variability, in addition to high land degradation and poverty levels. Moreover, wind and water erosion and salinization have contributed to desertification problems for 40% of the irrigated land. These challenges are made worse by unsustainable land use practices.	N/A
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	Yes , as per the endorsement letter dated January 8, 2022.	N/A
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme	No. The proposal is 71 pages, including its annexes. CAR1: Please shorten to stay within page limit.	CAR1 Amended. All the Concept Note was revised to adjust the content; some paragraphs and figures were removed to avoid duplicity and reinforcement of some ideas already express which will be used in the full proposal document if necessary; the intervention area maps were synthesized into a single map; Annex 2 (References) has been

	concept, including its annexes?		<p>removed and the references has been include in the main document; Annex 4 (Photography record of MST-NOA Cuyo project), has been removed. Annex 1 Acronyms and Annex 2 (former annex 3) of ToC were maintained.</p> <p>The complete Concept Note of the Project is in 50 pages.</p>
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<p>Yes. The project supports concrete adaptation activities in the drylands of the Northwest and Cuyo of Argentina, to reduce the rural communities' vulnerability to climate change impacts and strengthening their community resilience.</p> <p>Project activities focus on sustainable land management practices, including climate smart agriculture, improved water management and access, and local capacity development to be financed by a locally managed revolving fund and microcredit loans.</p> <p>The proposal includes a detailed theory of change (<u>Annex 3</u>).</p>	N/A
	4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative	<p>Yes. The rural population of project area is approximately 350,000 people and includes the poorest in the region with subsistence living standards.</p> <p>The project will focus on building local capacity and knowledge on sustainable land management practices, including climate smart agriculture, increased food security, and access to and management of scarce water resources. Special attention will be paid to rural women and vulnerable groups.</p>	

	impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?		
	5. Is the project / programme cost effective?	<p>Yes. The proposal provides a logical explanation of the selected scope and approach and demonstrates cost effectiveness from a sustainability point of view, as outlined on pg. 28.</p> <p>The investment proposed is equivalent to two years of the country's current policy of compensation for emergencies and agricultural disasters in the region, which establishes a fixed annual fund of 500 million pesos, currently equivalent to 4.7 million US\$, intended to compensate affected producers in delimited areas throughout the country, and to rebuild damaged infrastructure without addressing the lack of adaptive capacity. Instead, the project proposes to build capacity, knowledge, and material investments to reduce vulnerability to climate change of the most vulnerable communities.</p>	N/A
	6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction	<p>Yes, as outlined on pg. 28, the project is aligned with Law No. 27,520 on Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change (Climate Change Law) and its Regulatory Decree No. 1030/202039, three National Communications; three Biennial Update Reports; two Nationally Determined Communications (NDC), and the National Adaptation Plan and Climate Change</p>	N/A

	strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?	<p>Mitigation (RESOL- 2019-447-APN-SGAYDS # SGP) which is in the process of being updated.</p> <p>In the case of the NDCs, the sectorial plans and the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan have served to contextualize the strategic lines of the project.</p>	
	7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?	<p>Not clear. Further details should be provided. As outlined on pg. 30, and in the 'Compliance with the Law' section of the risks table on pg. 35, the project commits to meeting all relevant national standards, including the General Environmental Law of the Nation No. 25,675, and will be implemented by the national agencies and their provincial counterparts, authorities in charge of compliance with national laws and standards and provinces in terms of production, environmental protection, regulatory frameworks on climate change, with a focus on the processes of poverty reduction and social inclusion, pillars of the National Government scheme. However, it is necessary to identify the relevant sector-specific national technical standards.</p> <p>CR1: Please identify the relevant national technical standards, including environmental impact assessments, land use or tenure regulations, water quality regulations, and any other sector-specific regulations.</p>	<p>CR1. "National legislation in which the project is frameworked" and "Provincial legislation applicable to the project" have been included which synthesizes relevant national and provincial specific legislation applicable in which the project is frameworked. relevant technical national and provincial standards are included in this legislation. See section E. Tables 3 and 4.</p>
	8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?	<p>Unclear. The proposal notes that the project's design and activities are based on lessons learned and antecedents in the activities carried out by various institutions such as INTA and IADIZA and by a series of</p>	<p>CR2. The MAYDS programs and initiatives already implementing in the intervention sites have been included. See Table 5. Paragraph 140</p> <p>The consultative process, which is propose to be completed and reinforcement at full proposal stage,</p>

		<p>previously executed projects such as LADA and the UNDP Arg / 14 / G / 55 project. The proposal mentions that the project will complement the Inclusive Rural Development Program (ProDERI), as well as two projects already executed with financing from the Adaptation Fund in the Argentine Republic, the “Increasing climate resilience and enhancing sustainable land management in the southwest of the Buenos Aires province” (2013-2017) and “Adaptation and resilience of family farming in Northeast Argentina (NEA) to the impact of climate change and its variability” (2013-2017).</p> <p>However, the proposal also references “other initiatives are being implemented in the project intervention area both from the MArDS and from other areas of the national and provincial government” but does not identify them.</p> <p>CR2: Please list all other potentially overlapping initiatives being implemented in the project intervention area, and outline linkages and synergies with all relevant potentially overlapping projects / programmes.</p>	<p>will be the moment for highlight other possible initiatives implementing by others stakeholders in the territory.</p>
	<p>9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?</p>	<p>Yes. Component 4-Project management, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management is the project’s learning and knowledge management component and includes plans supporting community dialogue on lessons learned during project implementation, and for a systematization of local, traditional, and ancestral knowledge, as part of the community-based adaptation approach. This component also includes</p>	<p>CR3: It is propose to create a <i>Regional Knowledge Sharing Adaptive Platform</i>, which will have at least the following content: best SLMPs inform; plans to learn from relevant projects, programs, initiatives & evaluations and the processes to capture, access, and document information, which can be routinely update throughout and after project implementation.</p> <p>CAR2. Component 4 is rename as “<i>Knowledge management and project sustainability</i>”. In this new format, the project management, monitoring and</p>

		<p>development of “guides and protocols of best practices” to disseminate to the target population.</p> <p>CR3: Please ensure that the KM approach includes an overview of existing lessons and best practice that inform the project concept; plans to learn from relevant projects, programs, initiatives & evaluations; and an indication of the processes to capture, access, and document information, including possible knowledge platforms and websites which can be routinely updated throughout and after project implementation.</p> <p>Component 4 has an estimated budget of USD 1,110,367, which accounts for 11 percent of the total project costs.</p> <p>CAR2: Please consider dedicating component 4 exclusively to the knowledge component, as project management, monitoring and evaluation are generally covered under project execution and the management fee costs.</p>	<p>evaluation actions have been removed taking into account that these actions are include in the PMC.</p>
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	<p>10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>No. The concept is based on extensive participatory and consultation processes carried out within the framework of national planning of policies for adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Regarding the consultation of the most vulnerable groups to the impacts of climate change present in the selected territories; the proposal is based on the results obtained in the implementation of the Project "Sustainable Land Management in the Dry Zones of the Argentine Northwest" - MST NOA-Cuyo (UNDP ARG 14 / G55).</p> <p>CAR3: Please carry out an initial consultative process with key stakeholders of the project/programme, including gender considerations.</p>	<p>CAR3:</p> <p>A consultation process has been carried out with key informants from various scientific institutions, NGOs, women's cooperatives, and indigenous organizations, among others, in the different territories selected as intervention areas.</p> <p>In addition, two face-to-face workshops were held, one in the Northwest NOA region and the other in Cuyo. See Annex N°3 with consultation processes.</p> <p>The consultative process is proposed to be completed and reinforced at full proposal stage.</p>
	<p>11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?</p>	<p>Yes, as outlined on pgs. 44-48.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?</p>	<p>Yes, but more information is needed regarding financial sustainability.</p> <p>The project's community's capacity building in SLM practices, its participatory and focuses on women's' engagement. This will strengthen local ownership of project activities, enabling sustainability of project activities.</p>	<p>CR4: New information of Revolving Fund was added in paragraphs number 72 and 73 for better understanding of this solidarity finance mechanism which doesn't involve banks and in which there is extensive application experience in Argentina.</p> <p>The project does not anticipate the use of any additional financial mechanisms at this stage.</p>

		<p>Moreover, since the proposal has been developed within the framework of the national climate change strategies in conjunction with those of LDDD, the project's implementation and institutional sustainability are directly linked to the commitments assumed by the country versus UNFCCC and UNCCD.</p> <p>It would be useful to understand how local banks will be engaged. Who will be managing the proposed Revolving Fund (RF) during and after the project? Does the project anticipate the use of any additional financial mechanisms (in addition to the microcredits from the RF)? If so, which ones and who will be developing them?</p> <p>CR4: Kindly consider the questions outlined above to provide more details on financial sustainability.</p>	
	<p>14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p>Yes, as outlined in the checklist of impacts and risks identified against each of the 15 ESP principles on pgs. 35-38, and in the Background and context section, which outlines the social, economic, and environmental context of intervention areas of the project.</p> <p>The proposal has classified the project as a category B.</p> <p>However, while the proposal briefly outlines the gender-specific cultural and/or legal context on pg. 20, it does not include an initial gender assessment. This is particularly relevant considering that the gender and diversities perspective will be central to the project, particularly component 2-</p>	<p>CAR4: An initial gender analysis based on existing data (national statistics, academic field research and evaluation of participation in projects similar or earlier as the MST NOA Cuyo), is incorporated in paragraphs 82 to 85.</p> <p>It is proposed to elaborate a complete Gender Assessment for rural indigenous women of the NOA and Cuyo of Argentina at full proposal stage in a multisectoral and multi-actor way in the space of the National Climate Change Cabinet.</p> <p>Information on risks and potential and general impacts has been included in section B, although a gender assessment and gender action plan will be carried out according to Adaptation Fund guidelines during the development of the full proposal.</p>

		<p>Strengthening organizations and rural women and diversities for adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Regarding the risk mitigation, disposal of PV panels is a key environmental aspect which should be considered if PV panels are to be installed as part of the project.</p> <p>CAR4: Please include an initial gender assessment in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.</p> <p>CR5: Kindly consider the risks associated with the disposal of PV panels used in the small water works.</p>	<p>CR5: We appreciate the contribution to take into account the risks associated with the disposal of PV panels used in the small waterworks.</p> <p>As Implementing Entity, CAF has experience on this issue in other previous project and will use it as lessons learned in this project. The disposal of PV panels will be taking into account for Full Proposal stage.</p>
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	Yes.	N/A
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	<p>No. The implementing entity management fee (USD 807,893) is more than 8.5 percent of the total project budget before the fee (USD 9,192,107).</p> <p>CAR5: Please review the project financing to ensure that the implementing entity management fee is below 8.5% of the total budget before the fee.</p>	<p>CAR5: Amended. Now the implementing entity management fee is 8.03% of the total budget before the fee.</p> <p>In addition, the entire budget was revised and it was decided to adjust the implementation time of the project to 5 years. This reduces administrative costs and maximizes investment in the planned activities to achieve the proposed objectives.</p>

	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	Yes. The total project cost presents discrepancies (USD 9,192,105, rather than the correct USD 9,192,107) CAR6: Please correct the total project cost amount.	CAR6: Amended.
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	Yes, CAF is an accredited implementing entity of the Board.	
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage	
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and	n/a at concept stage	

	Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?		
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage	
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage	
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage	
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the	n/a at concept stage	

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

DATE OF RECEIPT:
ADAPTATION FUND PROJECT ID:
(For Adaptation Fund Board
Secretariat Use Only)

PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Category: Full Size-Project

Country: Argentine Republic

Title of Project: Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina facing climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices

Type of Implementing Entity: Regional Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

Executing Entity: National Directorate of Planning and Environmental Management of the Territory, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation

Amount of Financing Requested: USD 10.000.000 (Ten million dollars)

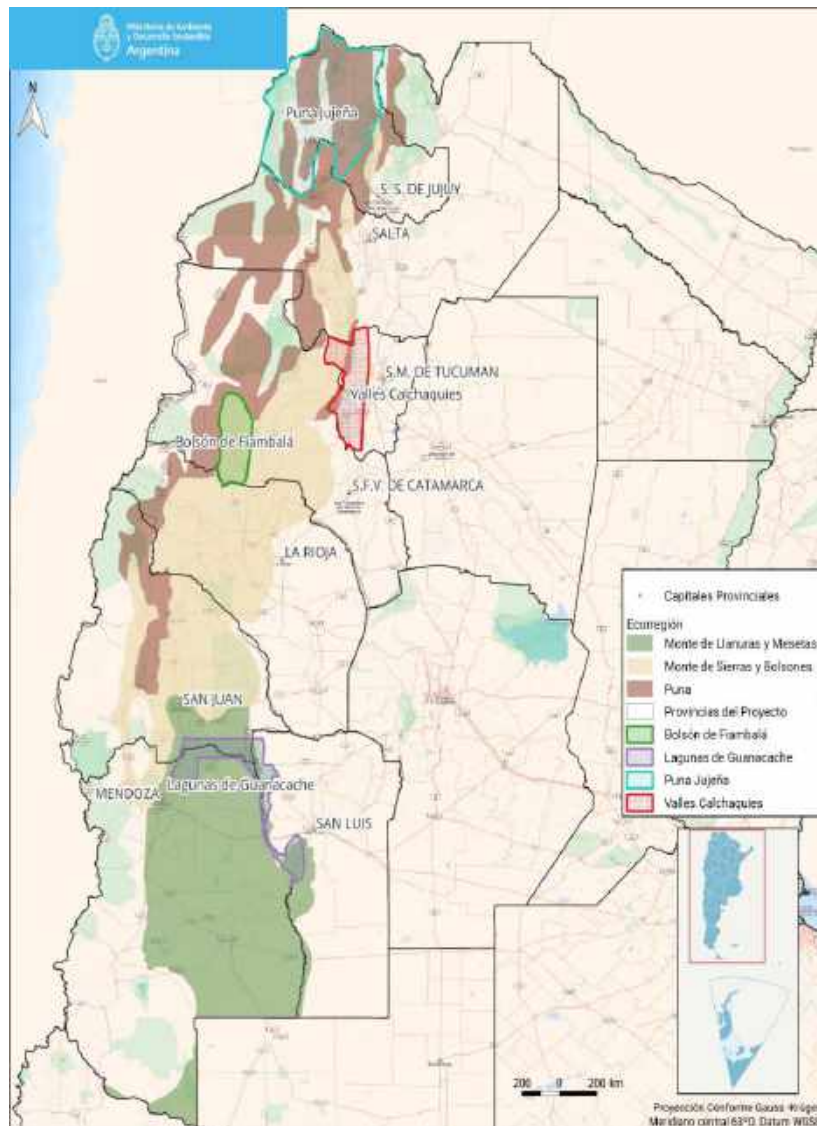
Project Background and Context:

1. General social, economic and environmental context

1. Argentina is a country with a large territorial extension, with a topographic, temperature and precipitation gradient that determines highly varied climatic characteristics. Within this heterogeneity, which gives rise to 18 natural regions or ecoregions, 70 percent of the territory corresponds to drylands.
2. The arid diagonal crosses the Argentine territory from the Northwest to the Southeast, and there are five ecoregions found in these drylands: Puna, Monte de Sierras y Bolsones, Monte de Llanuras y Mesetas, Chaco Seco and Estepa Patagónica.
3. These ecoregions are particularly vulnerable to land degradation processes (mainly wind and water erosion) and to various impacts of climate change such as: the retreat of glaciers and permafrost with the consequent decrease in river flows; water erosion due to the increase in intensity and frequency of torrential rains; the shifting of vegetative floors due to changes in the ecological niches of the species; the lower efficiency in the use of water; the increase in desertification processes and the frequency of fires due to the greater amount of biomass accumulation and the increase in the probability of landslides and landslides due to the destabilization of the soil due to changes in the cycles of freezing and thawing of the soil; among others.

4. This project aims to cover eight provinces that contain three of these ecoregions and a number of specific areas where there is greater social vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. These areas and ecoregions are Puna Jujeña (Puna), Valles Calchaquies and Bolsón de Fiambalá (Monte de Sierras y Bolsones) and Ramsar Site Guanacache, Lagoons Desaguadero and Salares de Bebedero (Monte de Llanuras y Mesetas).

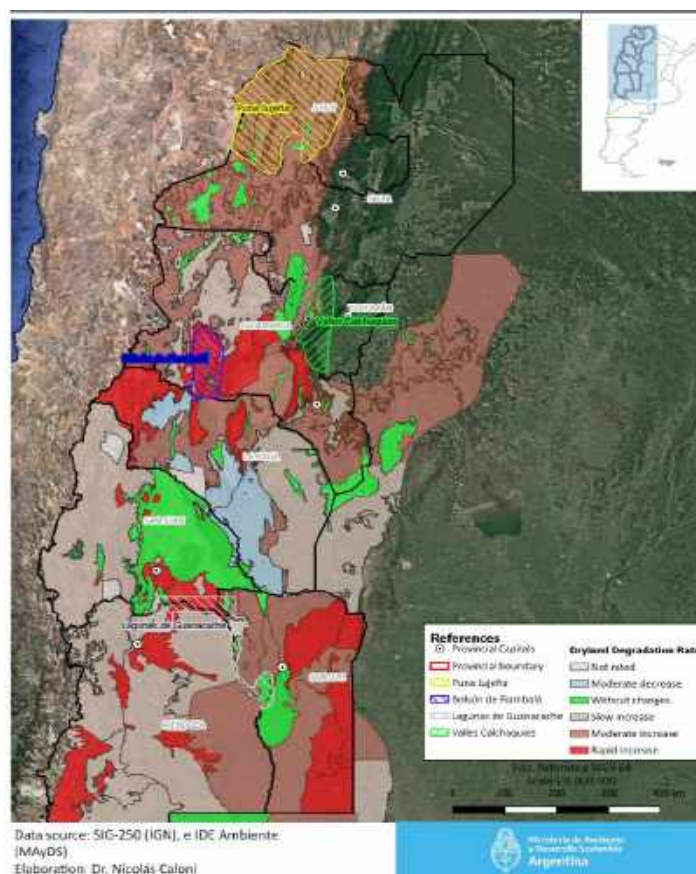
FIGURE 1: ECOREGIONS, PROVINCES AND PROPOSED AREAS OF INTERVENTION



Source: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

5. These specific areas of intervention within each of these ecoregions have been identified as promising as a result of a recently implemented project in the northwest and Cuyo region of Argentina: "Sustainable Land Management in the Dry Zones of Northwest Argentina" - MST NOA-Cuyo (UNDP ARG 14 / G55). Especially taking into account that in an analysis of the Degradation Rate of the drylands and the areas of intervention proposed for the project, it is observed that these areas are mainly within rates of Rapid and Moderate increase, making them even more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than they currently are.

FIGURE 2: DEGRADATION RATE AND PROPOSED INTERVENTION AREAS



Source: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

6. It is evident that future climate changes will influence the type, intensity, recurrence and extent of desertification and land degradation processes that are already present in the project intervention areas today. These processes are strongly linked to the intrinsic climatic, geographical and edaphic characteristics of the drylands of northwestern Argentina and are often enhanced by unsustainable anthropic actions, which generate moderate impacts on the functioning of these fragile natural ecosystems.
7. The eight provinces involved in the project are Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca as the NOA (Northwest) region and La Rioja, San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis as the Cuyo region. The selected ecoregions have an area of 309,835 km², equivalent to 42% of the territory of these provinces and 8% of the national territory. They have one of the highest poverty rates nationwide; the NOA had more than 15% of the population with unsatisfied basic needs and Cuyo provinces with 10 and 12%¹. The population of these regions are dispersed with an approximate density of 9 inhabitants / km² (national average of 14.4 inhabitants / km²) and a total of 6.9 million people of which 1.3 million (19%) live in the rainfed agriculture, being numerous the communities of native people that are present in these territories.
8. The rural population of these provinces is approximately 3.7%, totaling approximately 350,000 people and this number includes the poorest in the region with subsistence living standards.
9. Small producer farms are differentiated into Type 1: More capitalized producers in transition; Type 2: Producers that mainly live from their exploitation but do not manage to evolve and Type 3: Producers with fewer productive resources that cannot live exclusively from their exploitation. In the country as a whole, slightly more than half of the Small

¹ Unsatisfied Basic Needs (Necesidades Básicas Insatisfechas), INDEC, National Population Census 2010

Producers (SPs) Agropecuary Exploitation (EAPs) are Type 3, the poorest in terms of resources, since they are the ones with the lowest level of capitalization. They follow in relative weight those of Type 2, intermediate, with 27%. Finally, Type 1, with the highest level of capitalization.²

10. On the other hand, the participation of the rates in the total surface of the SP is inverse. Those with the highest level of capitalization (Type 1) cover almost 50% of the surface, while those with the lowest level (Type 3) have 25%. Type 2 SPs show a remarkable symmetry in their participation in the number of EAPs and in the surface area, which, in both cases, is 27%.
11. Producers with fewer resources (Type 3) show the highest percentages in the regions that make up the NOA (Puna, Valleys of the NOA, Subtropical Agriculture of the NOA), with more than 70% and 56% in Cuyo (Obschatko, 2007).

2. Social, economic and environmental context of intervention areas of the project

2.1 Puna Jujeña – Province of Jujuy (Puna Ecoregion)

12. Puna ecoregion is part of the Cordillerana Region (which also includes the High Andes and Monte de Sierras y Bolsones ecoregions). The Cordilleran Region covers the areas of the Andes, its foothills and the plains along six provinces from central to northern Argentina: Mendoza, San Juan, La Rioja, Catamarca, Salta and Jujuy. Specifically, the proposed intervention area for this project is the Puna Jujeña.
13. Environmental context: La Puna has a high landscape, ecological and environmental value. It conserves among its deserts, mountains, salt flats and lagoons, different species of birds, both seasonal and permanent. It includes, among others, the Pozuelos Lagoon and the Lagoons of Vilama complex (Jujuy province), wetlands which are highly variable spatially and temporally and have high ecological fragility, that are among the Ramsar Sites of Argentina. Wetlands are generally systems highly threatened by climate change and therefore their protection is part of their adaptation to it. Although there are no glaciers in this area, there is the Andean permafrost with important reservoirs of fresh water to supply the lowlands.
14. Social context: The Puna Jujeña area occupies an area of 29,643.30 km² out of a provincial 53,219 km². Its population density is 1.33 inhabitants/km², a percentage that is strongly conditioned by its climatic and geographical characteristics. Altitude, geology and thermal amplitude determine a limited soil support for agricultural activities, a difficult accessibility -especially in rural areas- and an enormous complexity for the provision and support of infrastructure, transport and connectivity services.³
15. The Departments of the Puna are inhabit, in general, by various native communities. The number of original communities of the Puna Jujeña is 124 and the ethnic groups that make them up correspond to Kollas, Atacama and Toara.

² Obschatko, Edith Scheinkerman de. 2007. Los pequeños productores en la República Argentina: importancia en la producción agropecuaria y en el empleo en base al censo nacional agropecuario 2002: 2da. Edición revisada y ampliada / Edith Scheinkerman de Obschatko; María del Pilar Foti; Marcela E. Román. - 2a ed. - Buenos Aires: Secretaría Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos. Dirección de Desarrollo Agropecuario: Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura- Argentina, 2007. 127 p. + 1 CD ROM ; 30x21 cm. (Estudios e investigaciones ; 10) ISBN 978-987-9184-54-7

³ MinPlan. Ministerio de Planificación Federal, Inversión Pública y Servicios. 2015. Plan Estratégico Territorial de la Puna Jujeña, Provincia de Jujuy. Plan Estratégico territorial. Avance III. [https://www.mininterior.gov.ar/planificacion/pdf/planes-reg/Plan-Estrategico-Territorial-Puna-Juje%C3%B1a-\(2015\).pdf](https://www.mininterior.gov.ar/planificacion/pdf/planes-reg/Plan-Estrategico-Territorial-Puna-Juje%C3%B1a-(2015).pdf) . ISBN: 978-987-1797-25-7.

16. The population of the Puna is highly mobile but with a return circuit, since inhabitants leave in search of work but return after, both at different times of the year and at some point in its life cycle. Migratory movements in the Puna are related to the search for better economic, cultural and / or social possibilities offered by other towns in the Province. Consequently, migrations take place from the less developed regions to the more developed ones in terms of sources of work, income levels, educational conditions and quality of life in general.
17. There are sectors of the Puna population that still cannot access the necessary services to improve their quality of life, reflected in insufficient housing, work, health and education conditions. A large proportion of the inhabitants are unable to cover their basic needs, a phenomenon observed in an average of 37.4% of households with Unsatisfied Basic Needs. This low quality of life is associated with the scarce productive alternatives in the region and its relative economic, geographical and sociocultural marginality, added to the consequent loss of the young population due to migration. Finally, there are no systematized studies of groundwater reserves or aquifer recharge. In various sectors, water has different levels of salinization and the natural presence of arsenic, boron and other elements, which makes it unsuitable for consumption.
18. Economic and productive context: In relative terms, the economic activity of the Puna is the least developed in the Province. The most important activities, due to their impact on both the level of employment and the generation of income, are mining, livestock, commerce and public administration. Although still at a low level of development, agriculture, tourism and handmade craft production have significant growth potential. The current economic condition can be considered subsistence.

2.2 Monte de Sierras y Bolsones: Valles Calchaquíes (Tucumán) and Bolsón de Fiambalá (Catamarca)

19. Like the Puna Jujena, it is part of the Cordilleran Region. Its territory represents 2.22% of the country and extends parallel to the Andes Mountains, from Jujuy to the north of Mendoza. Within this ecoregion, the proposed intervention areas are Valles Calchaquíes (corresponding to the area of drylands with aridity and semi-aridity indices in Tucumán province) and Bolsón de Fiambalá (Catamarca province).
20. Environmental context: It is a shrubby steppe lying on intermountain valleys, pockets and mountain slopes. These ecoregions present areas of high ecological value since their natural resources such as glaciers, native forests and endemisms to name a few of the most important, provide a large number of crucial ecosystem services for the operation and maintenance of the regional population.
21. In the Valles Calchaquíes, an area that has an approximate extension of 1,440 km² (52% of the total area of Tafí del Valle Department), the climate is arid - dry sub-humid, with hot summers, annual rainfall of around 200 mm (concentrated between the months of December to March) and an annual evapotranspiration of 700 to 800 mm, which determines a permanent annual water deficit. (PAP Tucumán 2021-2025). The soils, both in the valley area and on the slopes of the surrounding mountains, are generally of incipient development. These fragile and low-productivity environments require special management standards not only for agricultural production, but also for the conservation of their ecosystem services.
22. Respect to Bolsón de Fiambalá (also known as, the Fiambalá Valley) is a depression in northwestern Argentina, located in the center-southwest of the province of Catamarca in the Tinogasta Department. This Department has a surface area of 23,582 km², 23,326 inhabitants (INDEC, population projection to the year 2021) and is administratively divided into 13 districts.
23. The hydrographic basin of the Abaucán River that runs through the entire department

stands out and has a hydrological regime "Periodic Nival" (mountain melts). Its waters are intensively used for irrigating crops. typical of an intense regional economy.

24. In the Bolsón de Fiambalá, the degraded carob forest patches are very characteristic, extending discontinuously along the Abaucán River. They are part of the natural and cultural heritage of the region, with a significant importance in the hydric dynamics of the river, biodiversity and soil protection. In addition, this forest species provides benefits such as ground cover, the incorporation of nitrogen from the air and the production of organic matter. It is also the main source of wood in the region, while its fruits can be used to make food products and fodder for animals.
25. Social Context: In the Calchaquíes Valleys, there are the Rural Communes of Amaicha del Valle and Colalao del Valle, between the Calchaquíes peaks and the Sierras del Cajón or Quilmes, which concentrate 3,601 inhabitants (20% of the departmental total). The main challenges posed by the site to the local inhabitants are: water supply; type of soil and drainage to which agricultural techniques must be adapted over the generalized process of aridization and the impacts of different anthropic activities that affect the dynamic factors of the landscape.
26. According to the latest National Census, corresponding to the 2010 period, the province of Catamarca has an index of 3,994 Rural Households with Unsatisfied Basic Needs, of which 341 correspond to the Tinogasta Department.
27. Economic and productive context: In the Mount of Sierras and Bolsones ecoregion, economic activity depends largely on the water contributions of its rivers (for irrigation oases) and reservoirs (hydroelectric production), standing out permanent crops such as vine and fruit growing, which have great economic importance. The problem of this region is characterized by its complexity, since it covers different conflicting aspects, on the one hand challenges of reducing impact on the natural environment, improving land productivity and generating more formal employment, and on the other hand, migration (especially young people) and consequent depopulation of rural areas, the lack of consolidated production organizations and the lack of infrastructure. This situation extends to all areas of the territory and also to other non-agricultural activities (Morandi *et. al.*, 2020) which are the basis of complementary income for communities.
28. Some of the main problems in the region related to desertification and land degradation are the following (Government of Tucumán, 2018): 1) the high pressure on the native forest through the extraction of firewood for different uses; 2) the livestock sector, in general, with lack of sustainable management -there is an unsatisfied demand and the possibility of developing fiber and leather products, these activities do not grow in the desired way due to poor commercial management, non-existent logistics for the transfer of value-added products to regions with greater demand and due to the lack of water supply infrastructure in breeding areas-; 3) the agricultural production structure that has a low scale of production and a high degree of informality and 4) the population growth in the area that shows an increase in recent years, which increases the demand for water for consumption to the detriment of agricultural activities.
29. In Bolsón de Fiambalá, according to the definitive data from the last National Agricultural Census carried out in 2018 (INDEC, 2021)⁴, the province of Catamarca has 9,706 agricultural holdings (EAPs) of which 1,344 are in the Tinogasta department, where 960 (71%) are in charge of men and 349 (26%) in charge of women (the remaining 3% without discrimination).

⁴ I.N.D.E.C.-Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos - 2021. Censo Nacional Agropecuario 2018: resultados preliminares. - 1a ed. - Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos. ISBN 978-950-896-556-1. Resultados definitivos:
https://www.indec.gob.ar/ftp/cuadros/economia/cna2018_resultados_definitivos.pdf

30. In the department of Tinogasta, the main productive chain in the area refers to viticulture. For this reason, since 2013 the Government of the Province has been developing the Viticulture Plan, which currently registers a participation of 90% of small Type 2 and 3 producers. They have 70% of the area of vineyards in the province, approximately 3,715 hectares. The second most important crop are olive groves, with 1,650 planted hectares. The growing area depends exclusively on irrigation.

2.3 Monte de Llanuras y Mesetas: Ramsar Site Guanacache Lagoons, Desaguadero and Bebedero Salt Flats (San Luis, San Juan and Mendoza provinces)

31. This ecoregion comprises the driest strip in the country and covers 35,414,412 hectares (6.71% of the country). From Mendoza, the Monte heads east-southeast towards the Atlantic Ocean, passing between the ecoregions of Espinal and the Patagonian Steppe until it reaches the coast of the extreme south of Buenos Aires, Río Negro and Chubut provinces. Plains and stepped plateaus prevail.
32. Within this ecoregion, the Guanacache Lagoons, Desaguadero and Bebedero Ramsar Site is located in central-western Argentina, at the foot of the Central Andes, in the border area of the provinces of San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis, fed by the Salado Desaguadero - Basin. The Ramsar Site Guanacache Lagoons was designated on December 14th, 1999, including 580,000 hectares in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan. On June 5th, 2007 it was expanded to be renamed Guanacache, Desaguadero and Bebedero Lagoons, including 962,370 hectares in the provinces of Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis.
33. Environmental context: It constitutes a system of lagoons and chained baths, fed by the Mendoza and San Juan rivers and sporadically through the Bermejo Drains. An exorheic system that discharges through the Desaguadero River. It has a rich biological diversity associated with the wetland (more than 50 species of aquatic birds with more than 20,000 individuals). The Ramsar Site Guanacache Lagoons is valuable for the conservation of biodiversity and as a way of life for rural communities and indigenous peoples present in the area, with strong cultural relevance and a marked sense of belonging.
34. Social Context: At present, the site is inhabited by about 2,000 people, including 12 Huarpes communities and creole settlers (lagoon's people), who live mainly by raising goats. From the 1950s onwards, the Guanacache wetlands suffered a process of desiccation and other alterations due to natural and antropic causes. The diversion of rivers to take advantage of water in productive oases upstream, added to the extreme climatic events, resulted in the drying up of the Guanacache lagoons, a situation that was strengthened since 2010. This scenario of water crisis and extreme drought threatens the survival of the Ramsar Site's inhabitants, who do not have water for irrigation or for livestock drinking.
35. Productive economic context: In the past, the San Juan, Mendoza and Desaguadero rivers, with the Guanacache lagoon and the Desaguadero baths, provided water for agricultural and livestock activities. Currently the area is a desert because long years of drought have contributed to the drying out of the bodies of water, the producers emigrated and the region was left depopulated. Currently the main activity is the raising of goats, handicrafts and extraction of firewood and jonquil to make brooms (Morello, 2012)⁵. The main livestock activity is goat rearing, with more than 10,500 heads. Cattle ranching follow it with about 1,200 heads. Farm animals include pigs and poultry. The production is mainly for self-consumption and the goats work as petty cash to pay for expenses.

⁵ Morello J., Matteucci S., Rodriguez A. y Silva M. 2012. Ecorregiones y Complejos Ecosistémicos Argentinos. GEPAMA. FADU. Buenos Aires.

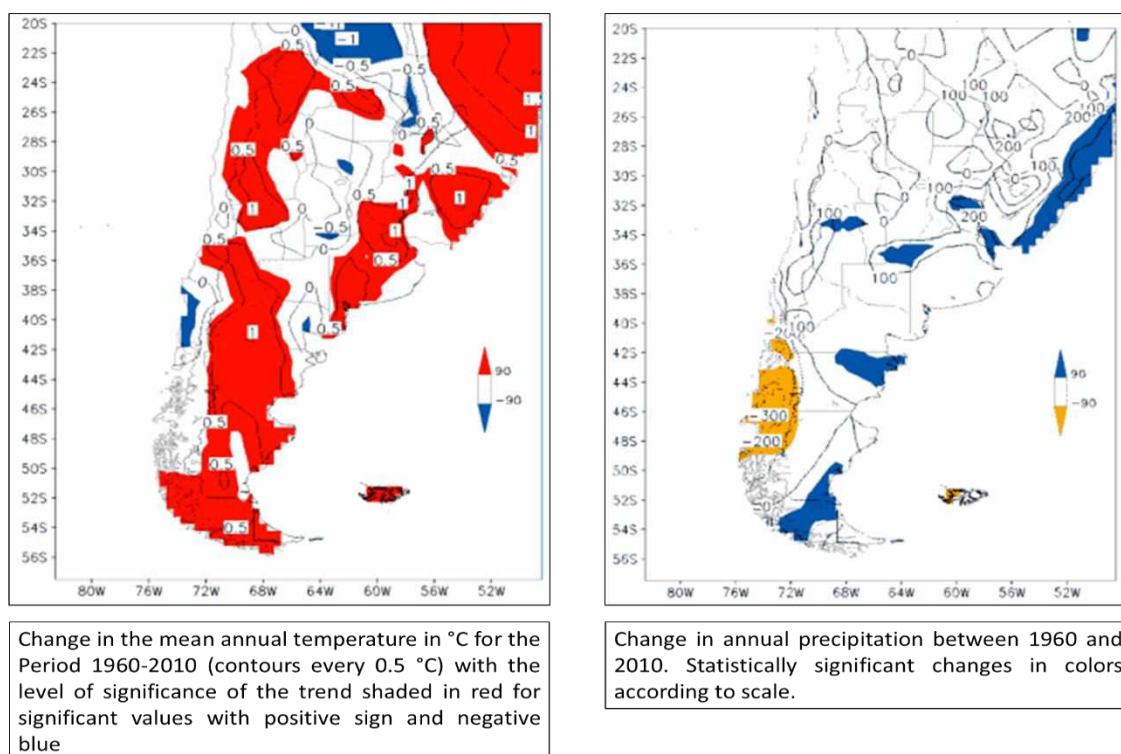
Breeding takes place around the stalls, each one made up of a house, a corral and a well, the land is communal and without fences.

3. Climate Change in the areas of intervention of the project:

36. The Argentine Republic is a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change under Article 7, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, and under Article 4, paragraph 8, of the UNFCCC, given that it possesses: low coastal zones; arid and semi-arid zones; areas with forest cover and areas exposed to forest deterioration; disaster prone areas; areas exposed to drought and desertification; and areas of fragile ecosystems, including mountain ecosystems⁶.

37. Changes in the country's climate have been observed since the second half of the last century that, according to climate model projections, would generally intensify or not reverse in this century. These changes have caused impacts on natural and human systems. In most of non-Patagonian Argentina, there was a temperature increase of up to half a degree between 1960 and 2010, while average precipitation increased in almost the entire country, although with interannual and interdecadal variations⁷.

FIGURE 3: CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION. PERIOD 1960-2010



Source: own elaboration based on Third National Communication on Climate Change
Secretary of Environmental and Sustainable Development of the Nation

38. The water deficit and the seasonality of rainfall characterize the three ecoregions described above and result in the need to manage water resources in a sustainable way so that they are available for human consumption, as well as for agricultural and industrial production. In the west and most notably in the north, the dry periods of winter have become longer. This has generated problems in the availability of water for some

⁶ MAdS, 2020. Segunda Contribución Determinada a Nivel Nacional de la República Argentina. Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, República Argentina.

⁷ SAdS. 2015. Tercera Comunicación Nacional de la Republica Argentina a la Convencion Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climatico. Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación.

populations and more favorable conditions for grassland fires and greater stress on livestock.

39. Climate projections have been made for Argentina according to the CMIP5 set that includes twentieth-century simulations and projections of twenty-first century climate scenarios. The climate scenarios include the average of 42 experiments for two time horizons: near future (2015-2039) and far future (2075-2099), informative in the long term and for two scenarios of future greenhouse gas concentrations (GHG) RCP4.5 and 8.4. These GHG concentration scenarios correspond in the first case to moderate emissions growth and in the second to growth with current trends. For this project, the projections of the near future will be taken since they are those of interest for adaptation policies.
40. As a result, projections indicate that the average temperature would rise across the country.
41. According to climate projections for the 21st century, the Cordilleran Region is the region of the country for which the greatest warming is projected. **On the other hand, the projection of lower rainfall in the mountain range strip would create a risk scenario for the water resources of the mountain foothill oases, which would also be reduced in a context of higher demand due to a strong and rapid warming of the climate.** In the near future, the increase in mean temperature would not depend much on the concentration scenario and would be greater than 1 °C in much of the region with a tongue of greater warming that extends from the north and along the west.
42. Due to the warming of the region, an increase in the height of the isotherm of 0°C is projected, continuing with the trend observed in recent decades, which will cause an acceleration of the melting of permafrost and glaciers.
43. The height of the 0° C isotherm is a rough indicator of the lower level of glaciers and perennial snows. These water reserves feed the main rivers of the region, which support the foothills of irrigation oases that allow agriculture and the settlement of towns and cities. Its average height in the region is 3,950 m, being higher in the north than in the south and varying from 3,500 m in San Juan and Mendoza to more than 4,400 m in Salta and Jujuy. Consistent with the observed regional warming, the height of the 0° C isotherm has increased in the period 1960-2010, this increase being greater in the south (250 m) than in the north (100 m).
44. With these moderate increases in temperature in the near future and, with the fluctuations typical of arid regions, precipitation would not have significant changes. This configures a scenario of increasing water stress with moderate impacts on the functioning of natural ecosystems. In addition, there is a vulnerability of wetlands in the Cordilleran region in particular, because high temperatures will accentuate evaporation, reducing bodies of water such as lagoons, and affecting physicochemical characteristics such as salinity, in addition to exacerbating fragmentation processes by increasing distances between patches. However, climatic signals such as the increase in temperature differentially affect different scales of wetlands. In the Puna for example, the size of the lagoons largely determines their resilience to these increases in temperature: those with a smaller surface area show radical changes in areas and become completely dry for 1 or more years.
45. It will be also an increase in days with heat waves in most regions of the country, which would be greater in the north and, especially in the northwest, where it would increase by more than 60 days in the near future (SAyDS, 2015). As the NOA region of the country is the region with the greatest social vulnerability to disasters, it would be the region with the highest risk of social impacts due to heat waves. Likewise, climate change is a new risk factor that, by affecting all economic activities, influences the world of work in general and more directly in those branches of activity that are sensitive to climate. Workers who carry out their work activities outdoors will have an increase in their occupational risks

due to the greater frequency or intensity of extreme events, greater exposure to high temperatures, or greater occurrence of vector-borne diseases. In these cases, the loss of workdays due to illness or injury can represent a significant loss of income. According to the climatic scenarios, these damages will be greater in the north of the country.

46. The latest report from IPCC Working Group I (2021)⁸ reinforces the projections that climate change will increase in all regions in the coming decades. According to the report, with global warming of 1.5 °C, there will be an increase in heat waves, hot seasons will lengthen, and cold seasons will shorten. Because of climate change, different regions experience different changes, which will intensify if warming increases; in particular, changes in humidity and dryness, winds, snow and ice, coastal areas and oceans. Specifically for the Southwest South American (SWS) region where this project is located, it is expected that:
 - The total land area subject to increasing drought frequency and severity will expand (high confidence).
 - Projections of fire weather indices indicate an increased risk in the region (high confidence).
 - Increases in one or more aspects between drought, aridity, and fire weather (high confidence) will potentially affect a wide range of sectors (including agriculture, forestry, health, and ecosystems).
 - Glacier volume loss and permafrost thawing will likely continue in the Andes Cordillera under all greenhouse gas emissions scenarios in this report, causing important reductions in river flow and potentially high-magnitude glacial lake outburst floods.
4. Current existing barriers and baseline scenario to overcome it for achieve effective adaptation to climate change
 47. The purpose of this project is to strengthen the community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina in the face of climate change. This will only be feasible if the barriers that currently exist in the areas proposed for project implementation can be overcome. These barriers are:
 - A. A high percentage of people with Unmet Basic Needs (UBN) prevents them from improving their productive economic situation and continues to replicate production, commercialization and consumption practices, which are not very sustainable.
 - B. Productive structure with a low production scale, a high degree of informality and a low effective representation of the most vulnerable groups such as women and youth.
 - C. Productive activities do not grow in the desired way due to poor commercial management, non-existent logistics for the transfer of value-added products to regions with higher demand and due to the lack of water supply infrastructure in areas.
 48. Argentina has Law No. 27.520, which establishes instruments and strategies to achieve adaptation and mitigation to climate change. At the same time, it establishes the obligation of provincial jurisdictions to prepare provincial response plans to climate change, which are the guiding document for subnational policy on this issue.
 49. To overcome these barriers, Argentina has a solid baseline scenario to build this project upon on. During the 2015-2021 period, the National Ministry of Environment implemented the UNDP ARG 14G55 Project "Sustainable land management in dry areas of Northwest

⁸ IPCC, 2021: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press.

Argentina", which was financed by the GEF. This project includes the 4 areas covered in the present proposal: Puna (Jujuy), Valles Calchaquíes (Tucumán), Bolsón de Fiambalá (Catamarca) and Guanacache Lagoons, Bebedero and Desaguadero Ramsar Site (San Juan, Mendoza and San Luis). The actions were aimed at carrying out sustainable land management practices (PMST), the governance of drylands through the formation of Multisectoral Committees for the formulation of Provincial Action Ps to Combat desertification, drought and land degradation (PAPs) and the survey of the surface of bare lands (devoid of vegetation) and of producers involved in carrying out PMST financed by the Project.

50. The UNDP ARG 14G55 Project, financed 45 sub-projects to carry out SLMP, contributing USD1,551,000, which were executed by community organizations of peasants and Original Peoples of the Kolla, Diaguita Calchaquí, Huarpe and Mapuche ethnic groups. The subprojects had a gender component. In addition, a specific call was made for Indigenous People, with the intervention of the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI). A total of 1,443 families (8,086 persons) benefited. About 20 types of SLMP were implemented, of which 46% were linked to access to water for human consumption and production. Two hundred families from Jujuy, Catamarca, La Rioja and Mendoza benefited from the Revolving Funds designed in the Project, managed mainly by groups of women and young people, in order to purchase fodder, inputs for production, agroecological production, livestock and small water works.
51. Six Multisectoral Committees (MSC) were formed and put into operation, including the provinces of Jujuy (Puna ecoregion), Tucumán (Valles Calchaquíes), Catamarca (Bolsón de Fiambalá) and San Juan. They are integrated by the MAYDS, government institutions in the areas of environment and production, and rural research and development institutions (INTA and the Secretariat of Family, Peasant and Indigenous Agriculture), National Universities, and peasant and Indigenous Peoples' organizations. The MSC formulated the Provincial Action Programs to Combat Desertification, Drought and Land Degradation, which contain specific lines of action referring to 1. Public policies and institutional articulation, 2. Financial and economic instruments, 3. Strengthening of capacities for implementation in the territory, 4. Education and awareness, 5. Science, technology and knowledge.
52. In this sense, it is worth highlighting the actions that are being implemented in the NOA and Cuyo regions aimed at avoiding, reducing and / or reversing land degradation as a way of contributing to neutrality in land degradation. In synthesis, the MST NOA-Cuyo project (UNDP ARG 14 / G55), gave as strategic results the development of three Provincial Action Plans to combat Land Degradation Desertification and Drought mitigation (LDDD); the strengthening of local governance with the constitution of six Multisectoral Committees (MSC); the start-up of two Infrastructure of Spatial Data Nodes - GIS-ISD for monitoring degradation in drylands and the identification and implementation of 20 sustainable land management practices (SLMP), covering 673,335 ha and 9,600 direct beneficiaries belonging to indigenous peoples and small family farmers.
53. Finally, the MST NOA-Cuyo project has delivered many lessons to be learned and things to be done to continue to overcome the current existing barriers and reinforce the quality of life of rural and indigenous people of the drylands of the northwest of Argentina especially in the face of the impacts of climate change⁹. **Another important document to be considered is the Guide to combat desertification, land degradation and drought¹⁰, developed within the framework of the PAN (National Action Program to Combat Desertification and Drought).**

⁹ MAYDS-PNUD, 2022. Manejo Sustentable de Tierras / PNUD ARG/14/G55 República Argentina.

¹⁰ Tools Guide to combat desertification, land degradation and drought. Ministry of the Environment. Link: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/guia_desertificacion.pdf

54. In addition, there are two manuals on good grazing and wetland management practices in Laguna de los Pozuelos and Salinas Grandes prepared by Fundación Humedales, which address the problems and needs of the communities related to livestock, pastures and the lack of water available for the animals and forage maintenance, with the participation of the National Park Administration (APN), National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and Secretariat of Family Agriculture (SAF). The manual indicates that the digging of watering holes down to the water table causes the loss of 2 to 2.5m³ of water per year through evaporation and can be a vector of diseases for livestock with improper management. It is recommended that rainwater be collected in surface watering places. These manuals establish guidelines for wetland and high Andean meadow restoration.
55. Another important source of information and background information is PROCANOR: Program for The Economic Inclusion of Family Farmers In Northern Argentina of the General Directorate of Sectoral and Special Programs and Projects (DIPROSE). The main objective of the PROCANOR program is to improve the integration of family farmers into emerging and dynamic value chains under beneficial and sustainable conditions. These actions are based on well water collection and storage works, productive infrastructure for fencing and irrigation, irrigation systems through the improvement of conduction channels and the installation of drip irrigation systems, water works to provide water for agricultural use, drinking troughs, tanks and storage centers, and processing of raw materials. PROCANOR promotes the active participation of young people and indigenous communities, ensuring gender equity, care for the environment, and adaptation to climate change. PROCANOR focuses on the ten provinces of Argentina's Norte Grande: Catamarca, Chaco, Corrientes, Formosa, Jujuy, Misiones, Santiago del Estero, and Tucumán.

Project Objectives:

General Objective:

- Contribute to the adaptation of rural communities in the drylands of northwestern Argentina, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Increase the efficient use of water resources in all sectors and ensure the sustainability of the extraction and supply of fresh water to face water scarcity.
- Promote, among small and medium-scale producers, the adoption and implementation of SLMP to prevent, reduce and / or mitigate LDDD; revaluing cultural practices and strengthening the sustainable and resilient management of agroecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of the impacts of climate change.
- Consolidate and enhance the capacities of local producer groups and organizations that inhabit the prioritized ecoregions
- Empower rural women who inhabit the prioritized ecoregions, to achieve their effective participation in the development processes of the territory and strengthen them in actions to adapt to climate change.
- Develop and implement financing mechanisms and value chains managed by the local producer organizations themselves, which support the adoption of SLMP and measures to improve access to water with an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Community-based Adaptation (CbA) approach.

- Implement the Project in the prioritized ecoregions, in coordination with local partners, monitoring, evaluating, communicating and disseminating its results.

Project Components and Financing:

Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US\$)
1. Improvement of access to water and promotion of Sustainable Land Management Practices (SLMP) in rural populations of the NOA Cuyo to reduce their vulnerability to CC.	<p>1.1.1 Trained local population with access to materials and technical assistance for the efficient use of water resources with an EbA and CbA approach.</p> <p>1.1.2 Financing the investments necessary to achieve the sustainability of water extraction and supply.</p>	1.1 The efficient use of water resources increases in all sectors ensuring the sustainability of the extraction and supply of fresh water to face water scarcity.	US\$ 4.362.100
	<p>1.2.1 Development and / or updating of guides and / or protocols for the implementation of SLMP at the local level in the selected ecoregions and critical areas.</p> <p>1.2.2: Women and groups of rural women and diversities, participate together with technicians in the definition of priorities and training modalities and in the elaboration of a systematization of experiences and recommendations with a gender perspective.</p> <p>1.2.3 Technical support for the development of local capacities for the adoption and implementation of the SLMP.</p> <p>1.2.4 Financing the necessary investments for the SLMP implementation.</p>	1.2 Small and medium-scale producers and producers adopt and implement SLMP to prevent, reduce and / or mitigate LDDD, revaluing their cultural practices and strengthening the sustainable and resilient management of agroecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of the impacts of climate change.	
2. Strengthening organizations and rural women and diversities for adaptation to CC	<p>2.1.1 Legal, administrative, institutional and communicational / informative strengthening of the social organizations present in the intervention areas with gender equity and diversities with an intersectional approach.</p> <p>2.1.2 Exchange of experiences, articulation of goods, services, knowledge and facilitated knowledge; both between beneficiary social organizations and between</p>	2.1 The capacities of the groups and local organizations of producers that inhabit the prioritized ecoregions are consolidated and strengthened.	US\$ 514.174

	them and other institutions linked to the Project.		
	2.2.1: The role of women and diversities is strengthened in local rural groups or organizations, through training and support in the exercise of managerial roles.	2.2 Rural women who inhabit the prioritized ecoregions are empowered to achieve their effective participation in the processes of development of the territory and strengthened in the actions of adaptation to climate change.	
3. Financing and added local value	<p>3.1.1 Goods, services and resources available to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and local producer organizations for marketing and added local value.</p> <p>3.1.2 Incorporated differentiation strategies to value or promote local and traditional practices and knowledge that allow combating LDDD to strengthen adaptation to CC.</p> <p>3.1.3 Locally managed financing mechanisms available to SMEs and local producer organizations.</p>	3.1 Local and regional markets are promoted as centers for the commercialization of products and the development of actions and investments aimed at adding value for production associated with SLMP and the efficient use of water resources with an EbA and CbA approach is strengthened.	US\$ 2.690.831
4. Knowledge management and project sustainability	<p>4.1.1 Knowledge dialogue space where the exchange of lessons learned and the systematization of experiences is promoted, and local knowledge is consolidated as a useful tool for planning and evaluating the project.</p> <p>4.2.1 Networking, communication products and capacity development, facilitate the implementation and exchange of adaptation to climate change experiences and lessons learned among the communities of the four intervention areas.</p>	<p>4.1 Traditional and ancestral knowledge provide information for a better understanding of climate variability at the local level and to strengthen the generational transfer of knowledge.</p> <p>4.2 A Regional Knowledge Sharing Adaptation Platform is established for enhance climate change resilience of rural communities of the Northwest of Argentina</p>	US\$ 810.368
5. Project Execution cost			US\$ 879.117
6. Total Project Cost			US\$ 9.256.590
7. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			US\$ 743.410
Amount of Financing Requested			USD 10.000.000

Projected Calendar:

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project Implementation	November 2024
Mid-term Review (if planned)	September 2026
Project/Closing	March 2029
Terminal Evaluation	May-Dec 2029

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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

56. **The project covers three ecoregions, involving eight provinces, and focuses on four specific areas of intervention:** Puna Jujeña, Valles Calchaquies, Bolsón de Fiambalá and Ramsar Site Guanacache Lagoon, Desaguadero and Bebedero Saltflats; which are characterized by being strongly conditioned by the climate, geography and geology and by having a low population density of rural communities and indigenous peoples. These populations are very vulnerable because they live with a poor livelihood associated with the scarce productive alternatives in the region and their relative economic, geographical and sociocultural marginality, added to the consequent loss of the young population due to migration.
57. In this context, the project's main objective is to make contributions to the adaptation of rural communities in the drylands of the Northwest and Cuyo of Argentina, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and strengthening their community resilience.
58. For this, the project is structured in four main components that are mainstreamed by three key axes: gender and diversities perspective with an intersectional approach; Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and Community-based adaptation (CbA).
59. Working within the framework of the EbA approach, guides how to work with nature in the face of climatic events and promotes the protection, restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems to help communities reduce their vulnerability and increase her resilience in the face of variability and climate change.). This approach will take special relevance in sites under some conservation category such as Ramsar Sites.
60. CbA is an approach that seeks to increase the adaptation capacity of the most vulnerable communities over the impacts of climate change and variability. In the case of this project, Type 3 small producers, with special relevance on indigenous people and women.
61. Finally, the approach with a gender and diversities perspective with an intersectional approach is essential to modify the historical disadvantages of women, their limited access to resources, restrictions on their rights and the silence of their voices in the decision-making process. This context makes them highly vulnerable to climate change. It is important to recognize that the conditioning factors based on gender, social dimension, ethnicity, age and religion, among others, influence the construction and

determination of vulnerabilities and capacities, generating differences and inequalities when facing and recovering from the impacts of climate change.

62. In recent years, Argentina experienced an increase in the femininity index of poor households, which implies that they concentrate a higher proportion of women. In this sense, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) estimates that by 2013 women dedicated an average of 15.2 hours per week to paid work, compared to 33.2 hours per week for men, and an average of 42.4 hours of unpaid work compared to 17.3 hours for men. In this framework, and deepening the analysis from a gender perspective, in the case of rural women, and given their simultaneous role of performing reproductive and productive tasks, they face greater barriers to the development and commercialization of products and little experience in management and use of credit. In addition, they have land tenure restrictions and are faced with a lack of potable water. (Ministry of the Interior and Transport; 2012)¹¹
63. In this sense, the MST NOA Cuyo project worked on each of the components, active participation and contributed to the empowerment of women, which favored the strengthening and continuity of good practices in the territory. Although it was not a rule, it was encouraged that gender parity be taken into account in the formation of the CMS and, by decision of the organizations, the FRs are managed mostly by women and young people. The project has managed to lay important foundations, which must be strengthened in the context of adaptation to climate change, and this is what the present project seeks to contribute with respect to the gender and diversity perspective.
64. A conceptual map of the project or Theory of Change is presented in “*Annex 2: Theory of Change*” and allows visualizing the link between the problems identified in the NOA Cuyo region of Argentina as priorities to be addressed in order to strengthen resilience community of rural populations and communities originating from the intervention areas and the proposed actions. Likewise, the four components in which the project is structured as “high-level change levers”, the expected results and the barriers to be overcome to achieve the expected impact at the end of the project are detailed.

Component 1: Improving access to water and promoting Sustainable Land Management Practices (SLMP) in rural populations of the NOA-Cuyo to reduce their vulnerability to CC.

65. Since it is evident that future climate changes will deepen the LDDD processes that are already present today in the project's intervention areas; the adoption and implementation by the population of SLMPs aimed at reducing and mitigating these impacts, is essential. Likewise, actions for the efficient use of water resources in all sectors that ensure the sustainability of the extraction and supply of fresh water to face water scarcity are key to adaptation to climate change. These two strategies will be implemented in individual or mixed proposals; keeping in mind that many SLMP are simultaneously efficient water use practices.
66. The implementation of the SLMP, contributes to the approach of different components of the integral management of climate risk such as the development of still incipient capacities in adaptation matters and reduction of inequities and socioeconomic inequalities, including those of gender. Also reduces impacts related to the increase in the annual average temperature, water stress due to increased temperature and a potential water crisis. Although, increase resilience in areas prone to disasters, from fragile and degraded ecosystems, arid and semi-arid and exposed to drought or desertification.
67. Although there are multiple approaches and criteria to determine which are the SLMP

¹¹ Ministerio del Interior y Transporte. 2012. Documento País sobre Riesgo de Desastres en la Argentina. Disponible en: https://www.mininterior.gov.ar/planificacion/pdf/AS_13662310131.pdf

according to the characteristics of each ecoregion, in general terms for a land use or management practice to be considered “sustainable”, it must provide the following benefits: a) preserve the physico-chemical properties and fertility of the soil; b) preserve water quality and tend to hydrological regulation; c) conserve biodiversity; d) set greenhouse gas emissions; e) contribute to the diversification and beauty of the landscape; f) preserve cultural identity; and, g) avoid contamination¹².

68. The SLMP to be promoted will be, initially (because new practices will continue to be adjusted and tested), those already tested and validated in the execution of the MST NOA-Cuyo project in order to reinforce its effective implementation which are:

- Small water works: drip and sprinkler irrigation, repair of main and secondary canals, Australian plates, wells and tanks with solar panels, dams, dams to recover wetlands and flow measurement.
- Agroecological production: compost, vermicompost and fertilization of soils in areas of agricultural and horticultural crops.
- Management of land with pastures: production of winter greening, management of natural pastures in cattle fields and vicuña shearing areas, implantation and management of forest curtains,
- Production of plants in nurseries, in addition to the use of non-wood forest products.
- Improvement of water and groundwater quality, salinity regulation and efficient use of water.
- Monitoring of climatic variables by installing meteorological stations
- Protection against natural risks (prolonged droughts, avalanches, floods, fires)
- Reduction of firewood use through the use of efficient cookstoves.
- Strengthen sustainable management of native camelids - as alternative livelihoods for vulnerable local communities.
- Strengthening the Ramsar Site Network.
- Strengthen adaptive management practices oriented to forage evaluation and ranch management.
- Strengthening water harvesting practices in dry areas where moisture deficit is the main limiting factor.

Another important tool is the Guide to Sustainable Land Management and Soil Conservation Practices produced by the National Land and Desertification Observatory (Observatorio Nacional de Tierras y Desertificación) for NOA and Cuyo.¹³

69. The step prior to the adoption and implementation of the SLMP and the design and selection of measures to achieve efficiency in the use of water, is to carry out training sessions with the beneficiary communities. These trainings will be given as a workshop and will have work, communication and dissemination materials specially designed with a gender and diversity approach, for which the participation of women and LGBTI+ in the preparation stage is essential, together with the technicians, of the necessary material, guaranteeing the gender perspective. Likewise, each proposed participation instance will

¹² SAyDS (Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación). 2019. Guía de prácticas de manejo sustentable de tierras y conservación de suelos. [REGIÓN NOROESTE] Catamarca, Jujuy, Salta, Santiago del Estero y Tucumán". CABA: Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación. Disponible en <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/bosques/programa-accion-nacional/publicaciones>

¹³ NOA and Cuyo Sustainable Land Management and Soil Conservation Practices.
NOA's Guide https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/noa_guias_buenas_practicas.pdf
Cuyo's Guide https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/nuevo_cuyo_guias_buenas_practicas.pdf

be accompanied by guides and protocols developed to facilitate and strengthen the involvement of the different actors in the execution of this project; both in the instances of work in the office and in the field.

(Output 1.1.1: Local population trained and with access to materials and technical assistance for the efficient use of water resources; Output 1.2.1: Development and / or updating of guides and / or protocols for the implementation of SLMP at the local level in the selected ecoregions and critical areas; Output 1.2.2: Rural women and groups of women and diversities, participate together with technicians in the definition of priorities and training modalities and in the elaboration of a systematization of experiences and recommendations with a gender perspective).

70. Once carried out the trainings, information exchange workshops and knowledge; the dissemination and awareness of adaptation to climate change, among other aspects, the necessary actions will be carried out to address the main problem faced by producers in the project intervention areas, which is the increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events, going from floods to periods of droughts where access to water is a strong limitation for the maintenance of local livelihoods. According to the emerging projections of climate models, these trends will continue to deepen in the future.
71. It is proposed to make available to small producers the necessary investments for the acquisition and use of appropriate water technologies for collection, harvesting and storage of water. These will allow efficient management of the resource to be carried out, storing water in periods of excess for later use in periods of deficit. (Ministry of Agroindustry of the Nation, 2018)¹⁴. These tools will be analyzed and selected according to their proven efficiency, with the modifications that may be necessary depending on the particularities of each intervention area, production systems and the socio-cultural profile of the beneficiary group. *(Output 1.1.2: Financing the necessary investments to achieve the sustainability of the extraction and supply of water; Output 1.2.3: Technical support for the development of local capacities for the adoption and implementation of SLMP linked in this case to the improved access to water).*
72. The promotion of the SLMP will be carried out both through non-refundable financial contributions and microcredits. The beneficiaries of these mechanisms will mainly be individual or grouped implementers (producers and land managers) of family farming and indigenous people communities, but they will also include medium-scale capitalized family producers and SMEs with the possibility of forming local value chains integrating small producers and / or expand the scale of impact.
73. Both for the implementation of the SLMP and the actions to improve access to water, the Revolving Fund (RF) mechanism will be principally used. A RF is a resource management instrument for organizations that have limited access to financing. It basically functions as a “resource box” that an organization manages and that “circulate”, or “rotate”, between it and its associates in the form of credits. These credits, both in money and in products or inputs, are mainly used to finance the productive activities of the members of the organization. When they repay the credits, the resources return to the fund so that they can be re-lent to other members of the group. The scale in the use of these resources is “local” in the sense that their recipients share the same territorially based productive system that is, they share the same socio-economic activity and daily articulations in the same territory.
74. The Revolving Funds are a form of local solidarity finance that can be defined as follows:

¹⁴ Ministerio de Agroindustria de la Nación. 2018. Proyecto Adaptación y Resiliencia de la Agricultura Familiar del NEA ante el impacto del Cambio Climático y su variabilidad. Informe Final. Fondo de Adaptación. Disponible en: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informefinal-cambioclimatico_1.pdf

- A financial tool managed by organizations that promote family farming in a given territory or local area.
- Its source of financing is, in general, a subsidized resource, that is to say that its Funds come from State subsidies, National NGOs, International Cooperation, etc. It should be noted that many of the organizations combine resources from credits.
- Its recipients (or “borrowers”) are rural and peri-urban producers, organizations and communities.
- They are aimed at financing productive and rural development projects that seek to solve local and/or regional needs regarding the improvement of production conditions, the reduction of desertification and drought in the territory and the increase in the quality of life of its population.
- They are transferred to producers in the form of credit, both in cash and in products or supplies.
- They are accompanied by other non-financial resources from the organization, such as training, technical assistance, accompaniment to producers, etc.
- Their return plans (fees, terms, amounts) and guarantee mechanisms (individual or by solidarity group), seek to adapt to the characteristics of the producer, their income, status, activity, etc.
- What is returned to the Fund does not remain there, but a part is destined to cover the operating costs and another, called “rota”, is re-lent to other producers. The latter makes the solidarity component of a Revolving Fund: its return implies the possibility of others to access the resource.
- Management seeks to be participatory, involving those who live together on a daily basis with local problems that can only be identified through the participation of their protagonists.

75. Argentina has experience in the implementation of RF. Some of these experiences can be found at National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)¹⁵, the Department of Programs and Special Projects (DIPROSE) of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Nation for six different programs¹⁶ and at the MST NOA CUYO project. The results of these implementations, shows that: In the short term, 55% of the organizations indicate that the Revolving Funds contributed substantially to improving the quantity and quality of production, while 30% of the organizations express that the Funds helped significantly in the commercialization of the products. Of all the organizations consulted, 64% positively valued the contribution of the Revolving Funds in the generation of participation, self-management, commitment, collective growth and productive autonomy. Finally, Most of the experiences (88%) reveal that the Revolving Funds strengthened the family economy.

76. The resources that make up an RF make it possible to finance the individual activities of the producers at the same time that they contribute to promoting, or reinforcing, the joint projects of an organization. (*Output 1.1.2 Financing the necessary investments to achieve the sustainability of the extraction and supply of water; Output 1.2.3: Technical support for the development of local capacities for the adoption and implementation of the SLMP; Output 1.2.4: Financing of the necessary investments for the SLMP implementation*).

77. To guarantee the effective participation of communities and local actors in this component, it will act in synergy with Component 2. **It is proposed to institutionalize the Intercultural Dialogues with Indigenous Peoples as a support for the provinces in the development and monitoring of their governance and participation spaces for the implementation of subnational response plans.**

Component 2: Strengthening organizations and rural women and diversities for adaptation to CC.

¹⁵ https://inta.gob.ar/sites/default/files/script-tmp-inta_cipaf_fondos_rotatorios.pdf

¹⁶ https://magyp.gob.ar/sitio/areas/proderi/_pdf/Sistematizacion_FOCos_PRODERI.pdf

78. Through the implementation of this component, the aim is to enhance the capacities of local producer groups and organizations and, fundamentally, of women producers that inhabit the prioritized ecoregions, to achieve their effective participation in the development processes of the territory and, in particular, in the LDDD prevention and mitigation actions and sustainable use of water for adaptation to climate change.
79. It is essential for community strengthening, technical support and accompaniment for the consolidation of local groups and organizations, through their formalization and legal and / or tax regularization. This increases the institutional sustainability of local groups, and their capacity for action, reducing the vulnerability of their members to climate change.

(Output 2.1.1 Legal, administrative, institutional and communicational / informative strengthening of the social organizations present in the intervention areas).

80. The exchange of experiences between peers will facilitate the transmission of practices and knowledge, while the possibility of articulating actions and exploiting synergies will result in the strengthening of local organizations and the increase of their capacity for action to face the climate change challenges. *A good example is the Gran Chaco Adaptive Innovation Platform PROADAPT, which has created an innovation network for the development of family agriculture in the Gran Chaco Americano in the context of climate change, to strengthen the technical, organizational and institutional capacities of the region and improve the generation and use of knowledge for adaptation to climate change. This could be an opportunity to extend the scope of this tool to the project regions.*
81. Both the training for the community approach to the problems arising from climate change, such as promoting the exchange of experiences between organizations; they will be carried out with a gender and diversity approach.

(Output 2.1.2 Exchange of experiences, articulation of goods, services, knowledge and knowledge provided; both between beneficiary social organizations and between them and other institutions linked to the Project).

82. The training and accompaniment of women and diversities in matters of leadership, decision-making, conflict resolution, management and handling of information will be promoted. Likewise, technical support for the consolidation of local groups and organizations formed and led by women will be a priority in the implementation of the project. The transversal incorporation of the gender and diversities perspective in the actions of the project requires a specific space in which the gaze of women and other diversities is explicitly rescued, and the modes of training, dissemination and training are planned accordingly linked to the target population, to guarantee effective and equitable access to the goods and services provided by the project. *(Outputs 2.2.1: The role of women is strengthened in local rural groups or organizations, through training and support in the exercise of managerial roles).*
83. This support will be carried out through: the design and implementation of dissemination strategies and tools for the calls for the presentation of projects especially aimed at women and women's organizations; Technical assistance and financing through Non-reimbursable Contributions (NRC) for the implementation of subprojects led by women and women's groups and the promotion of the exchange of experiences between women and women's organizations with collective mapping of experiences, practices, difficulties and problems in around the organization of production, sustainable land management and their participation in the activities carried out.
84. An important background to work on gender issues in the present project is constituted by the project MST NOA Cuyo that promoted in each component the active participation and contributed to the empowerment of women, which favored the strengthening and continuity of good practices in the territory. Although it was not a rule, it was encouraged

that gender parity be taken into account in the formation of the MSC and, by decision of the organizations, the RFs are managed mostly by women and young people. The implementation of SLMPs and rotatory funds were opportunities to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment within the communities. Women were able to design the scheme of rotatory funds and manage the administration of money, decide about the purchase of material and supplies, and the allocation of funds according to the regulations. During the meetings, they take decisions on rotatory funds and the works according to personal needs. In addition, Argentina is carrying out a process of mainstreaming the gender and diversity perspective in its climate agenda within the framework of the National Climate Change Cabinet.

85. Even so, much work remains to be done and it is one of the contributions of this project. In an initial gender analysis based on existing data (national statistics, academic field research and evaluation of participation in projects similar or earlier as the MST NOA Cuyo), some results for rural women of the NOA are: 1) Decrease in feminine population; 2) Young rural women between 15 and 34 years had, in average, 1,63 children compared to urban women that had 1,15 children between 2001 and 2010; 3) Families in charge of women increased in the same period; 4) Rural young women reached higher educational levels; 5) Number of employed rural women increased from 39,9% in 2001 to 45,6% in 2010, 6) Rural women carried out several different tasks: they had domestic tasks within their household, they worked in agriculture within the family farm and also outside home as a worker for a salary. 7) Society and often women did not recognize the daily value of feminine work unless it renders money; 8) The gap in the accessibility of health services, education and technology between rural and urban women implied a lower standard of living; 9) Some public policies made possible for women to get new social positions outside home developing new capacities for them and their families.
86. The level of structural poverty (NBI) was higher in the dispersed rural area of the NOA, due to deficiencies in infrastructure for the provision and distribution of water to homes. The decrease in rural poverty in this region could be related with some improvements in infrastructure for water in homes, in higher level of education of heads and, in the case of households for positioning of women, to their greater labor insertion and, therefore, to the perception of better income.
87. The gradual equipment with electricity and water services in the scattered rural area, in the last decade, improved the quality of life of the entire population of these localities but, especially, that of women since they relieved the tasks assigned to the female role. These changes in the situation of rural women influenced, possibly, in their position within the household. A growing percentage of women in rural areas in the NOA no longer live in a situation of subordination to a male of the home, exercising the role of head. This was recorded by the sources consulted for young rural women and, mainly, in rural áreas concentrated.

Component 3: Financing and added local value.

88. As a result of this component, it is expected that local and regional markets will be promoted (**promoting and establishing markets**) as centers for the commercialization of products and the development of actions and investments aimed at added value for production associated with SLMPs and the efficient use of the hydric resources will be strengthened with a focus on EbA and CbA.
89. **It is necessary to support the development of Community-based Rural Tourism (CRT) ventures to promote rural development and support the rooting of communities so that they do not have to move from their regions to the central areas in search of employment or to improve their quality of life, which in part translates into urban sprawl and the peripheralization of the main cities and the occupation of areas of water risk.**

90. To achieve this result, the project will make available to SMEs and local organizations of producers, the financing and support for the implementation of projects that provide goods, services and resources to improve access to local and regional markets, incorporate new or better processes and / or advance in the value chain, in such a way as to increase the economic results of the family units. The addition of value and local marketing increases the appropriation of benefits by rural families in the intervention areas, thereby increasing their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. Within this framework, the creation of short marketing circuits in local and regional markets for productions associated with SLM practices will be supported, as well as the development of locally integrated value chains, supply systems or local or regional chains. *(Output 3.1.1. Goods, services and resources available to SMEs and local organizations of producers for commercialization and the addition of local value).*
91. The rescue of local practices and knowledge will cross the entire project by adopting a CbA approach. Opportunities will be identified and developed to value practices and knowledge from the differentiation of products, favoring community strategies such as Participatory Guarantee Systems (Fernandez, 2018). *(Output 3.1.2 Incorporated differentiation strategies to value or promote local and traditional knowledge and practices).*
92. Access to financing constitutes one of the main barriers to the adoption and continuity of SLMPs, and other investments necessary to sustain production and commercialization by small family producers. At the same time, the management of financial resources by local organizations strengthens their management capacity and expands their capacity to generate positive impacts on the well-being of the community. For this reason, the project will develop and implement, together with local organizations, the constitution of revolving funds for financing through microcredits aimed at the rural population of the prioritized areas. These mechanisms have already been successfully applied in the region through the MST NOA-Cuyo project (UNDP ARG 14 / G55), and there is a high unmet demand that requires the expansion of this tool. For it:
- Capacity will be developed at the level of the communities and organizations for the management of resources and financing mechanisms,
 - The design, implementation and management of credit operations managed by producer organizations that develop MST subprojects will be technically supported, and
 - The creation of revolving credit funds will be financed, and their execution will be monitored.
 - In addition, learning and good practices on the management of revolving funds that serve to replicate successful experiences and / or disseminate lessons learned will be systematized.

(Output 3.1.3 Locally managed financing mechanisms available to SMEs and local producer organizations)

Component 4: Knowledge management and project sustainability

93. Knowledge management would enable one community to learn from the experiences of another to be able to tackle a common situation. This would save the time, costs on research and avoid reinventing the wheel if knowledge were managed to promote knowledge sharing and transfer. It is therefore important to understand what 'knowledge management' is and how it can be applied in the context of climate change adaptation. Knowledge management enhances climate change adaptation development.
94. In this component, the participation of the community is foreseen through a space for dialogue of knowledge where the exchange of lessons learned is promoted. With a CbA approach, a systematization of local knowledge will also be considered, as a useful tool for decision-making processes, since traditional and ancestral knowledge provide

information for a better understanding of climate variability at the local level and, also, strengthen the generational renewal of knowledge. (*Output 4.1.1 Knowledge dialogue space where the exchange of lessons learned and the systematization of experiences is promoted, and local knowledge is consolidated as a useful tool for planning and evaluating the project*).

95. With the same approach, therefore, the project's dissemination materials (printed and audiovisual), its results and lessons learned, will be developed and published under this component, designed in such a way that they are appropriate for the target population. (*Output 4.2.2 Internal and external communication materials of the project facilitate the articulation between components and partners and the dissemination of results and lessons learned*).
96. In addition, knowledge management can be used as a tool for capacity building, which is a fundamental strategy for the project sustainability. In this context, Specialized Technical Assistance in Strengthening Local Organizations, in marketing, local value added and short circuits and, in the design, and implementation of revolving funds, will be delivered during all the project cycle. The trainee actions in climate change adaptation, in SLMPs and efficient water use are also considered capacity-building strategies.
97. Finally, like adaptation, knowledge management is a dynamic process, which must be constantly captured and updated. For this, the proposal is to create a Regional Knowledge Sharing Adaptive Platform, which will have at least the following content: best SLMPs inform; plans to learn from relevant projects, programs, initiatives & evaluations and the processes to capture, access, and document information, which can be routinely updated throughout and after project implementation. *In this sense, the National Observatory of Drylands and Desertification will play a key role in the evaluation and monitoring of the project, with particular emphasis on the activities in Component 1 (one).*

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

98. People engaged in agriculture face challenges such as the effects of climate variability and change, which lead to a decrease in crop productivity and yields, problems in access to water, soil degradation, loss of animals, seeds and food, among others. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has pointed out that climate change affects women more, particularly rural and indigenous women. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2011) states that if rural women had equal access to agricultural and financial resources as men, agricultural yields could increase by 20-30%, which would help reduce the number of food insecure people by 12-17% (Excerpted from Gender and Climate Change GUIDE: Why and how to work on gender-sensitive climate-smart sustainable agriculture initiatives). Likewise, women often play several roles: historically, they have a reproductive role with responsibilities in domestic and care tasks (unpaid work) to ensure food, health and emotional support for family members. Secondly, as farmers, artisans and/or beekeepers they have the role of adding value to production in cooperative work or through their participation in the management of natural resources. Finally, women have a socio-community role that includes all activities performed in the community to improve the living conditions of its members such as, for example, the transmission of knowledge and cultural practices (INTA, 2019).
99. As highlighted in the study "Climate Change and Family Farming with a Gender Lens", women and men experience the world differently as a result of their gender roles, which influences: the way they interact with the environment, access to and control of resources, distribution of domestic and productive tasks, participation in decision-making, access to

training and extension services, and financing. Within this framework, it is important to understand the gender approach, not as a synonym for women, but as an approach to the analysis of male-female relations that makes visible the gaps and inequalities between women and men in terms of exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity and risk in the face of climatic events or trends.

100. Considering these aspects during the climate risk analysis can lead to the identification and selection of different adaptation measures for men and women in order to address these differences and, based on programmatic actions, to intervene with the clear objective of reducing exposure or sensitivity and increasing adaptive capacity to climate events. From this approach it is important to understand that gender is not the only element that conditions the level of vulnerability of a person to climate change, it is also necessary to consider ethnicity, socioeconomic class, age, among other key factors, depending on the territory and community, i.e. the multiple overlapping inequalities that increase the gaps (intersectional approach). Therefore, the unequal impacts of climate change from a gender perspective are strongly linked to socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty in the context of an exclusionary and unsustainable growth (ECLAC, 2021).
101. The project's goal is to contribute to the adaptation of rural communities in the drylands from the Northwest and Cuyo Argentinian regions, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. This vulnerability is evidenced both in the intrinsic susceptibility of agri-food systems conditioned by the altitude, geology and geomorphology of these drylands; as well as the vulnerability of rural populations and indigenous people who inhabit them in conditions that often fail to meet their basic needs.
102. The rural population of these provinces is approximately 205,978 people, 87% of whom (179,886) are individuals and unregistered de facto partnerships, including the poorest sectors of the region with subsistence living standards. Considering this population, 42% are women, 58% are men and 0.12% are persons without gender or age discrimination. The agricultural exploitations of small producers with fewer resources (Type 3: with fewer productive resources that cannot live exclusively from their exploitation), show the highest percentages in the regions that make up northwestern Argentina, representing more than 70%.

TABLE 1: PROVINCES AND RURAL POPULATION

Province	Rural population							Total
	Unregistered individuals and partnerships				Other legal types			
	Total Women	Total Males	Without discriminating sex and age	Subtotal	Total Women	Total Males	Without discriminating sex and age	
NOA								
Jujuy	12700	13978	62	26740	283	638	921	27661
Salta	9348	12835	52	22235	1518	2470	3988	26223
Tucumán	3442	5424	6	8872	421	1180	1601	10473
Catamarca	9772	13845	17	23634	43	353	396	24030
CUYO								
La Rioja	4342	7362	26	11730	108	262	370	12100
San Luis	2742	5356	9	8107	282	1272	1554	9661
San Juan	6009	8621	5	14635	931	1392	2323	16958
Mendoza	27004	36855	54	63913	6088	8871	14959	78872

Sub-Total	75359	104276	231		9674	16438		
Total	179.866				26.112			205.978

Source: Censo Nacional Agropecuario 2018, INDEC 2021

103. The indigenous peoples in Argentina, preferably called "original peoples", are recognized by the National Constitution of the Republic as having an ethnic and cultural pre-existence to the Nation (Article 75, paragraph 17); and are legally defined by Law N° 23.302 on Indigenous Policy and support to the Aboriginal Communities (B. O. 08/11/1985), as "the groups of families that are recognized as such due to the fact that they descend from populations that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization and indigenous or Indians. O. 08/11/1985), as "the groups of families that are recognized as such due to the fact that they descend from populations that inhabited the national territory at the time of the conquest or colonization and indigenous or Indians to the members of said community" and as "indigenous or Indians" to the members of said community (section 2). These groups are at a crossroads that has been aggravated by dramatic changes in their environment in recent years: the loss of biological diversity is eroding their material basis for survival and the loss of cultural traditions is weakening their value base and social structures.

104. Statistics indicate that 2.4% of Argentina's population consider themselves to be descendants of indigenous peoples (INDEC, 2010). In general, the different aboriginal groups are located in areas where there are native forests. For example, the Kolla communities are located in the western part of northwestern Argentina (NOA), particularly in three areas: the Puna, whose altitude exceeds 4000 m.a.s.l., with an arid Andean climate, characterized by dryness, cold and strong winds; the Quebrada de Humahuaca, with altitudes between 600 and 2000 m.a.s.l.; and the high Andean valleys. According to information from the provinces where the Project will be implemented, of the 218,910 people belonging to native peoples (49% are women and 51% are men), 76,224 live in rural areas.

TABLE 2: PROVINCES AND TOTAL POPULATION (URBAN AND RURAL)

Province	Total IP Population	Total Females	Total Males	% in rural area	Total IP Population in Rural Area	% in urban area	Percentage Provincial population Total
Jujuy	52.545	26.199	26.346	33,1%	17392	66,9%	7,8%
Salta	79.204	38.785	40.419	42,6%	33741	57,4%	6,5%
Tucumán	19.317	9.330	9.987	42,1%	8132	57,9%	1,3%
Catamarca	6.927	3.303	3.624	36,3%	2515	67,3%	1,9%
La Rioja	3.935	1.766	2.169	11,2%	440	88,8%	1,2%
San Juan	7.962	3.946	4.016	23,5%	1871	76,5%	1,2%
Mendoza	41.026	20.438	20.588	27,1%	11118	72,9%	2,4%
San Luis	7.994	4.085	3.909	12,7%	1015	87,3%	1,8%
Total	135.771	67.301	68.470		42.043		

Source: Censo Nacional de Población, Hogares y Viviendas 2010: Censo del Bicentenario. Pueblos originarios: región Cuyo y NOA - 1a ed.

- Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos - INDEC, 2015

105. Likewise, climatic, edaphological and geomorphological variables determine a limited soil support for productive economic activities and condition the rural population density due to difficult accessibility and enormous complexity for the provision and support of infrastructure, transport and connectivity services.

106. Given that each community/people/target social group has its own characteristics and socio-cultural dynamics, the integration of the gender perspective requires considering that roles are mediated by other social categories: ethnic group, social class, religion, income level, educational level, age or generation, nationality, among others. Likewise, it is essential to rescue knowledge on the use and integral exploitation of ecosystems in each region, such as intergenerational relations and household economy.
107. In the rural context, the sexual and social division of labor usually places women in charge of reproductive work (biological, social and daily labor force) within the household, to which productive work is added, concentrating a large part of their available time. This includes not only the care and feeding of children and dependents, but also the organization and maintenance of the home, education and transmission of values and traditions, and community activities that women assume in local institutions. As for productive work, they usually participate in farm activities (care of small animals, grazing, orchard and farm care, etc.), production for self-consumption and sale (handicrafts, spinning, cheese, sweets, bread) and, when possible, commercialization of surplus production for self-consumption. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that, although support initiatives have been developed in recent years, women often face difficulties in marketing their products related to the existence of or access to markets, the ability to establish prices and promote their products, among others. In relation to forestry activities, women may participate in various activities such as hauling and stacking wood and branches, taking care of burning charcoal and, especially, tree planting and irrigation activities. In some cases, women also work outside the farm on a seasonal or permanent basis. In this regard, labor relations tend to be precarious, with no contributions and comparatively lower wages than those of men.
108. The impacts of climate change may deepen the sexual division of labor and the unjust social organization of care. Climate change has direct impacts on natural resources that are essential for daily life, such as water, fishery resources, availability of energy sources, and biodiversity. The scarcity or difficulty in accessing these resources can have serious implications from a gender and time use perspective. Women, especially rural, indigenous and peasant women, are primarily responsible for feeding the family, as well as for collecting basic household subsistence resources such as water and firewood. These culturally assigned responsibilities correspond to unpaid work performed by girls and women, and the scarcity of these essential resources can increase the time they must devote to them, resulting in the deepening of the structural nodes of inequality (ECLAC, 2021).
109. Women's rights to access to land are an aspect of special relevance in terms of gender gaps in rural contexts, as well as decision making about them. Although Argentine regulations are egalitarian in terms of women's rights to inherit, there is a very evident process of male concentration of land in the rural context of the country, which is probably due to family practices of use and control of inherited land.
110. Faced with these structural nodes of inequality and a scenario that threatens the sustainability of life, a key challenge is to ensure that response actions generate the necessary conditions for equality and that women, in particular, are not excluded from the search for solutions and participation in the processes of response to this global challenge (ECLAC; 2021). Within this framework, ECLAC proposes considering the following strategic axes to guide the lines of action of programs and projects: i) Access, use and control of natural resources and biodiversity; ii) Participation of women in management bodies and committees related to the environment; iii) Impacts of climate change and its repercussions on the use of time; iv) Differential impacts of disasters, gender violence and climate change.
111. For this reason, the project is essential to strengthen the community resilience of rural dryland populations, paying special attention to the most vulnerable.

112. The Project proposes that strengthening will be achieved through:

- 1) The efficient use of water resources ensuring the sustainability of the extraction and supply of fresh water to face scarcity and the adoption and implementation of SLMP to prevent, reduce and/or mitigate LDDD, revaluing sustainable cultural practices and the strengthening of the sustainable and resilient management of agroecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of the impacts of climate change. This will directly result in reducing the pressure that is currently generated in drylands by the unsustainable use of them; reducing also the anthropic processes of degradation and as a consequence, the synergistic effects that occur with the climatic trend of the region.
- 2) Access and appropriation of good practices on sustainable water management by women and vulnerable groups will result in improvements in their quality of life, in the use of time and opportunities for improvements in their income, favoring greater autonomy. economical.
- 3) The promotion of actions for the representation of women and vulnerable groups in all spheres of participation within the framework of the activities proposed by the project, considering a gender, intersectionality and human rights approach, which guarantee equal opportunities.
- 4) The formation of multi-sector committees and key stakeholders will be an institutionalized space for dialogue, reflection and decision-making on the MST. For example, the INAI Territorial Approach team will participate in each province, the INAI Gender area, the Rural Women Network through its partner organizations in the territory, the National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification, among others, all organizations with territorial anchorage and experience.
- 5) Strengthening the capacities of local groups and organizations of producers, both in the adoption and implementation of SLMP to obtain more and better products without compromising the capacity of the system, as well as in their subsequent commercialization.
- 6) The Project will seek to generate, capture and analyze gender-sensitive information and communication based on the generation of data disaggregated by gender, improving public strategies and policies in the sector. Through component 2, specific actions will be designed and implemented to reduce existing gender gaps.
- 7) The strengthening of national, provincial and local organizations in MST will contribute to generating governance instances to address climate policies from a gender and diversity perspective.
- 8) Access to competitive funds for infrastructure financing and the implementation of the PMST will contemplate equitable participation, trying not to reproduce gender stereotypes and reducing gaps in terms of ownership, use and control of resources.
- 9) The empowerment of women and rural diversities that inhabit the prioritized ecoregions to achieve their effective participation in the territorial development processes, among other proposed adaptation measures.

113. To achieve these final benefits , the project will provide training with access to informative materials, guides and protocols for the adoption and implementation of the SLMP and permanent technical assistance, both within social organizations and with producers in the territory (with special attention to reaching the most vulnerable groups). Likewise, it will provide the necessary financing for infrastructure and measures that improve access to water and the implementation of SLMP; revolving funds and investments aimed at adding value for production associated with SLMP and the efficient use of water resources with a focus on EbA and CbA. Finally, a permanent space for dialogue of knowledge will be fostered where the exchange of lessons learned and the systematization of consolidated local knowledge will be promoted as a useful tool for decision-making processes.

114. To avoid and mitigate negative environmental and social impacts, the Project contemplates carrying out an environmental and social diagnosis with a gender focus in the areas of intervention of the Project and the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan contemplating the gender-sensitive indicators proposed in the Results Matrix in order to guarantee the execution of the activities.

C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project

115. Given the social and economic reality of rural communities and indigenous people of the Northwest region and Cuyo of Argentina and the intrinsic environmental characteristics of the drylands of these areas; the climatic threats foreseen for these regions become more relevant, where in the near future they will face increasing water stress due to an increase in temperature without significant changes in precipitation.
116. This implies that, throughout the century, desertification processes would accelerate with less efficiency in the use of water by ecological systems, lower productivity, and greater fragmentation, loss of soil and nutrients and, possibly, landslides. Reduction of the geographic range of some species, with the consequent local extinction of some of the less tolerant to the new environmental conditions. There will be a reduction in the ice and snow cover, which will lead to continuous modification of the annual cycle of rivers, increasing winter flows and reducing those in summer. There will be an increase in heat wave days; an increase in the height of the 0° C isotherm and more favorable conditions for grassland fires and increased stress on livestock; among other impacts. All this, affecting the most vulnerable sectors of the rural population of the Northwest and Cuyo.
117. Climate change and human-induced land degradation have increased the vulnerability of the NOA and Cuyo communities in Argentina. Among the present and future expected impacts in the region are mentioned:
- Difficulty in access to water, especially for rural populations
 - The increase in heat waves can generate strong impacts, since this region presents greater social vulnerabilities to disasters.
 - The increase over favorable conditions for the development of forest, rural and grassland fires and greater stress in livestock and in different productive sectors, due to longer dry periods during winter and spring.
 - The acceleration of desertification processes with impact on ecosystems, changes in the geographic range and extinction of less tolerant species.
 - The retreat of rock glaciers, and consequent changes in hydrological regimes
 - An increase and prolongation of periods of water shortage in the region, with significant negative effects on all sectors of the population, but especially on communities in vulnerable situations and on productive agricultural and livestock activities.
 - Restrictions on the availability of water for olive, viticulture and fruit and vegetable irrigation, for the generation of hydroelectric energy and for other industries, such as mining.
118. All this has repercussions in the loss of livelihoods for thousands of small subsistence farmers and their families, abandonment of small and medium farms and rural villages, deterioration of rural infrastructure and pressure on productive ecosystems. The aforementioned factors further contribute to decreasing climate resilience and adaptive capacity. To this must be added the context of the COVID-19 crisis, understanding that any measure to adapt to the future impacts of climate change must take into account poverty and fiscal repercussions. In Argentina, the COVID-19 crisis has put significant pressure on the government budget and caused an increase in poverty. (World Bank, 2021)¹⁷.
119. Faced with this situation, the socioeconomic and environmental cost of inaction is constantly increasing over time.
120. This can be reflected in the declarations of Emergency and Agricultural Disaster

¹⁷ Banco Mundial. 2021. Impactos de las crisis climáticas en la pobreza y la macroeconomía. Argentina. Informe dirigido por: Julie Rozenberg (dirección regional de Desarrollo Sostenible para América Latina y el Caribe.

within the framework of Law N°26.509, in the departments where this project will intervene. In the last six years, all relevant departments (except those of the Province of San Luis, without data) have been declared an emergency or agricultural disaster on at least one occasion due to drought or extreme rainfall that lead to floods (not counting hail or late frost emergency declarations). The productions affected were major and minor livestock (Puna Jujeña and Guanacache Lagoons) Quinoa, Andean potato and other tubers (Puna Jujeña), blueberries, chickpea, wheat and potatoes (Calchaquíes Valleys - Tucumán), olive trees (Bolsón de Fiambalá and Guanacache Lagoons), vine and fruit and vegetable crops (Guanacache Lagoons) and agricultural production in general (Puna Jujeña and Calchaquíes Valleys)¹⁸.

121. It should be noted that the declaration of Agricultural Emergency or Disaster implies that producers in these areas may have lost more than 50% or 80% of their crops (emergency and agricultural disaster respectively). If only bovine production is considered, in 2020 the reference departments concentrated 39,409 head (MAGyP, 2021), which according to the efficiency indices in the corresponding provinces (MAGyP, 2019) would generate an annual productivity of about 5,932 head, with an estimated standing value of US \$ 2,473,000 / year. The recurring emergencies and agricultural disaster caused by drought and extreme hydrological events would put at least half of this productivity, that is, more than 1.2 million US \$ / year. The cost could be higher since these adverse situations frequently cause death of the productive stock, which is much more expensive and difficult to recover.
122. Regarding the wine industry, North of Mendoza, Catamarca and NOA regions (which encompass the project intervention areas), generated exports for USD 42,164,000 in 2020. On the other hand, the area with vineyards in the relevant departments for the project represents 15% of the national total. According to a study carried out by both the Argentine Wine Grower corporation and the Argentine Wine Grower Observatory (2018), the wine chain contributes 0.4% of the GDP of the Argentine Republic (2,574 million U \$ in 2017) and generates 373,000 jobs direct and indirect work. Assuming a participation proportional to the surface area, it means that the wine production in the project implementation area generates an annual added value of US \$ 386,000,000, and 56,000 jobs. Beyond the aforementioned effects, the medium and long-term climatic scenarios place the wine production and other production based on the irrigation valleys of Cuyo and the NOA, in a situation of high vulnerability due to the effects of climate change on the retreat of glaciers and the expected hydrological changes, being able to compromise a substantial part of the production.
123. The main and most direct compensation policy on the part of the National State in the face of adverse effects caused by weather contingencies is Law No. 26,509 on Agricultural Emergency. It establishes a fixed annual fund of 500 million pesos, currently equivalent to 4.7 million US\$, intended to compensate affected producers in delimited areas throughout the country, and to rebuild damaged infrastructure. The law also provides for tax deferral and exemption measures, as well as credits with a 25% reduction in interest rates. The provincial states in turn replicate the same type of aid. All this is burdensome for the National and Provincial States, and adds to the loss of production and economic activity. In addition, the access and adaptation of this type of instruments for small producers has been questioned (Casparri et al., 2014)
124. This project proposes instead to develop capacities, knowledge, and material investments to reduce vulnerability to climate change, instead of trying to compensate without success for its adverse effects. It is also aimed at a particularly vulnerable population and region, and will use a participatory and inclusive approach, guaranteeing the appropriation of actions and the empowerment of local actors to plan and carry out new initiatives in the future.

¹⁸ https://www.agroindustria.gob.ar/sitio/areas/d_ed/resoluciones/

125. It should be noted that of the total proposed investment, 69% will be used for capital investments, and 6% for training activities and exchange workshops; resources that increase physical and human capital and that will remain permanently in the region.
126. The investment proposed in this framework is moderate, equivalent to two years of the current policy of compensation for emergencies and agricultural disasters, and well below the estimated costs of inaction. It is also cost effective since it takes advantage of lessons learned and experiences developed in the MST NOA-Cuyo Project (UNDP ARG 14 / G55), expanding its scope and the depth of its achievements.

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

127. The Argentine Republic has participated actively and uninterruptedly in international negotiations on environmental matters in general, and in those related to climate change in particular. In this sense, through Law No. 24,295, sanctioned in December 1993, our country approved the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a non-Annex I country. Along the same lines, Law No. 25,438 of June 2001 approved the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the Paris Agreement through Law No. 27,270 of September 2016. Finally, in December 2019 the Argentine Republic ratified its political commitment in the fight against climate change by approving Law No. 27,520 on Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change (Climate Change Law) and its Regulatory Decree No. 1030/202039. Said law reaffirms and regulates the international commitments assumed, and strengthens national climate policy and subnational planning, establishing minimum environmental protection budgets to guarantee adequate actions, instruments and strategies for adaptation and mitigation to climate change throughout the national territory.
128. In compliance with the commitments assumed in the framework of the UNFCCC, Argentina has presented to date: three National Communications (1997, with the greenhouse gas inventories of 1990 and 1994; 2008, with the inventory of the year 2000 and 2015, with the GHG inventory of 2012); three Biennial Update Reports (BUR for its acronym in English 2015, 2017 and 2019) two Nationally Determined Communications (NDC), one in 2015 and the other in 2020 and the National Adaptation Plan and Climate Change Mitigation approved by Resolution No. 146/2023, which takes into account the actions and guidelines established in the National Plan .
129. This political, institutional and normative context in the matter of climate change which is actual in Argentina, has been taken into account as a theoretical and conceptual framework for the design of this project; as well as the information generated and systematized in the documents developed as part of the commitments assumed by the country, which has been the main input to guide the contents. In the case of the NDCs, the sectoral plans and the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which is currently being updated, have served to contextualize the strategic lines of intervention. The information gathered from the provincial articulation roundtables within the framework of the National Cabinet on Climate Change has also been considered in order to include a federal perspective in this proposal.
130. The project takes into account 3 of the cross-cutting approaches that guide the country's strategy for adaptation to climate change: gender and diversity, ecosystem-based adaptation, and community-based adaptation. In this sense, the project prioritizes the needs of social groups in conditions of greater vulnerability to climate change, such as rural communities and indigenous people of the drylands of northwestern Argentina,

with special emphasis on the gender perspective, so that gender is not a reason for social, political and economic inequality. The project contributes to the guiding principles of the Argentine Republic outlined in the NDC, where it is proposed to mainstream the gender and diversity perspective in climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. For this reason, for women and LGBTI+ to have social and environmental conditions of habitability of the territories, their active participation in the consultation and decision-making processes is promoted, strengthening their voice and representation on the territories they inhabit through access to material resources, educational, informative, formative, financial and technological and the construction of strategic alliances that strengthen their role as agents of change in the processes of adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

131. The adoption and implementation of SLMP and of measures to improve access to water contribute, first of all, to the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security, contributing to the reduction of poverty, hunger and the vulnerability of food production systems in the face of the adverse impacts of climate change. Second, they help prevent, reduce and / or reverse LDDD processes; contributing to the country's public policies framed in the commitments assumed with the UNCCD such as the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAN) (**National Law N° 24.701 and Resolution S AyDS 70/2019**); the Voluntary Goals for Land Degradation Neutrality and the Provincial Action Plans to Fight LDDD.
132. Participation and access to information are other of the pillars on which the project has been developed according to the instances provided for training, communication and dissemination and the exchange of experiences between social organizations as fundamental measures of knowledge management.

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

133. The Project will comply with all the applicable local and national regulations regarding Environmental and Social Screening, Assessments and Monitoring including participation and consultation and access to public information requirements. It will also comply with CAF and AF Environmental and Social Policies and an Environmental and Social management instrument will be developed for the whole Project's implementation and administration. The Project will also consider national and local laws regarding technical standards, procurement, NPA, land management, construction codes, among others.

TABLE 3: NATIONAL LEGISLATION

NATIONAL LEGISLATION IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS FRAMEWORKED		
THEME	LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION
General Regulatory Framework	National Constitution	Art. 41. All inhabitants enjoy the right to a healthy, balanced environment, suitable for human development and for productive activities to satisfy present needs without compromising those of future generations; and they have a duty to preserve it. Environmental damage will give priority to the obligation to repair, as established by law.
		Art. 121: The provinces retain all the power not delegated by this Constitution to the Federal Government, and that which has been expressly reserved by special agreements at the time of their incorporation.
Environment	Law N° 25.831	It establishes minimum budgets for environmental protection to guarantee the right of access to environmental information held by the state.
	Law N° 25.675	General environmental law. It establishes the minimum budgets for the achievement of a sustainable and adequate management of the environment, the preservation and protection of biological diversity and the implementation of sustainable development.
Biodiversity	Law N° 24.375	Adherence to the agreement on the protection of Biological Diversity.
	Law N° 19.282	Approves the adherence of the Argentine Republic to the "Agreement for the Conservation of the Vicuña"
	Law N° 25.861	The breeding of the guanaco (<i>Lama guanicoe</i>) is declared of national interest, throughout the territory of the Nation.
	Law N° 22.421	Protection and Conservation of Wild Fauna.
	Law N° 23.918	Approves the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

	Law N° 26.331	Law of Minimum Budgets for Environmental Protection of Native Forests. It establishes the minimum budgets for environmental protection for the enrichment, restoration, conservation, use and sustainable management of native forests.
Heritage	Law N° 21.836	Approves the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage – UNESCO.
Protected Areas	Law N° 22.351	Parks, National Reserves and Natural Monuments.
Wetlands	Law N° 23.919	Approves the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat.
Glaciers	Law N° 26.639	Minimum Budget Regime for the Preservation of Glaciers and the Periglacial Environment.
Climate Change	Law N° 24.295	Approves the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
	Law N° 25.438	Approves the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
	Law N° 27.270	Approve the Paris Agreement
	Law N° 27.520	Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change.
Soil	Law N° 22.428	Legal regime for the promotion of private and public action aimed at the conservation and recovery of the productive capacity of the soil
	Law N° 24.701	Approves the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought, Desertification, Land degradation
Water	Law N° 25.688	Environmental Water Management
Fire	Law N° 26.815	Minimum Budgets for Fire Management
Indigenous people	Law N° 24.071	Approved Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.
	Law N° 26.160	It declared an emergency in terms of possession and ownership of the lands traditionally occupied by indigenous communities originating in the country with legal status registered in the National Registry of Indigenous Communities, in a competent provincial body or in pre-existing ones.
	Law N° 26.994	Approved the reform of the Civil and Commercial Code of the Nation in which the rights of indigenous peoples and their communities are mentioned in the following articles: 14, 18, 225 and 240.
	Resolution 328/2010	Created the National Registry of Organizations of Indigenous Peoples (Re.No.Pi.).
	Law N° 27.118	It declares family, peasant and indigenous agriculture to be of public interest.
Gender	Law N° 26.485	Comprehensive Protection to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women in the Areas in which they Develop their Interpersonal Relationships
	Law 26.743	Gender identity
	Law 26.061	Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents

TABLE 4: PROVINCES LEGISLATION

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO THE PROJECT										
THEME	LEGISLATION	PROVINCES								Main link with the project
		Ju- y	Sal- ta	Tu- cu- má n	Cat- mar- c a	La Rio- ja	San Juan	San Luis	Mend- oz a	
General Regulator y Framework	Provincial Constitution	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	All the project
Water	Water code	Law N° 161	Law N° 8871	Law N° 7.139	Law N° 2.577	Law N° 7017	Law N° 4.392	Law N° VI-159-2004	Law N° 1920	Component 1
Suelo	Provincial Law	Law N° 3.785	Law N° 5973	Law N° 5.294	Law N° 2.480	Law N° 10.393	Law N° 260	Law N° IX-315-2004	Law N° 4.597	Component 1
	Other related laws: drylands and arid zones, land degradation and desertification	S/D	s/d	Law N° 8.865 Law N° 6.290	S/D	Law N° 10.393	Law N° 820	S/D	S/D	
Ambiente	General law	Law N° 5063	Law N° 7070	Law N° 6.253	S/D	Law N° 7861	Law N° 6.634	S/D	Law N° 5.961	All the project
	Environmental impact assessment		Law N° 7070		S/D	Law N° 8355/08	Law N° 6571	Law N° IX-0876-2013		Component 1

Biodiversity	Native forests	Law N° 6.097	Law N° 6986	Law N° 8304	Law N° 5311	Law N° 9188	Law N° 1439-L	Law N° IX-0697-2009	Law N° 8.195	Component 1
Climate change	There is no specific legislation at provincial level									
Glaciers	S/D	Ley N° 6.218	Law N° 7625	S/D	S/D	Law N° 8773	S/D	S/D	S/D	
Fire	S/D	Ley N° 5.018	Decreto N°3421	S/D	S/D	Law N° 6937	S/D	Ley N° IX-0328-2004	S/D	Component 1

134. Evidence Base Identification will assess all the components of the project, taking into account the activities of the project, and the methodology used in previous proposal projects presented by the implementation agency CAF.

- Description of Expected Outputs and Activities
- Evidence Based Risk Identification
- Risks Identification per E&S Principles
- Activity Identified risks in accordance with AF's E&SP and Potential E&S Impacts

Table 1. Expected Outputs and Activities

OUTPUT	ACTIVITY

Table 2. Evidence Based Risk Identification

Checklist of E&S Principles	Questions	Yes / No	Evidence Base Identification
1 - 15	Questions related to the AF E&S Principles and evidence needed to be presented by the project	Answers	Description of the evidence base identification

Table 3. Risks Identification per E&S Principles

Risks Identification per E&S Principles		
Checklist of E&S Principles	Risk Associated	Risks Associated
1 - 15	YES / NO	Description of the Risks Associated

Table 4. Activity Identified risks in accordance with AF's E&SP and Potential E&S Impacts.

Activity	Risks Identified in accordance with the Adaptation Fund environmental and social policy	Environmental and social impacts in case risks materialize

Table 2. Categorization definition

Questions	Component Answer YES / NO			
	1	2	3	4
Does the Project Outputs / Activities have significant adverse environmental or social impacts that are diverse?				

135. The project will be implemented by the national agencies and their provincial counterparts' authorities in charge of compliance with national laws and standards and provinces in terms of production, environmental protection, regulatory frameworks on climate change, with a focus on the processes of poverty reduction and social inclusion, pillars of the National Government scheme.

136. Another point of importance lies in the fact that all the activities that this project implies will be oriented by the guidelines of the processes of free, informed and consented consultation established by national protocols. In particular for the approach to work with the native population, which constitutes an important part of the target population of this proposal, the project will be conducted following the guidelines established by current national and international legislation on the matter, paying special attention to the appropriate use of the forms and the language to guarantee the participation of the communities, and the incorporation of their visions in the implementation of subprojects.

137. The project also recognizes antecedents in the activities carried out by various institutions such as INTA and IADIZA and by a series of previously executed projects such as LADA and the UNDP Arg / 14 / G / 55 project. For the design of the strategies, results, goals and activities, we started from systematization and the lessons learned from these experiences.

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

138. There is no duplication with other funding sources. Although different initiatives have been implemented and/or are being implemented in the area of intervention of the project, none of them have as their central axis the contribution to the adaptation of rural communities in the drylands of northwestern Argentina, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

139. Furthermore, the comprehensive approach to the territory, simultaneously addressing the synergy between LDDD and the impacts of climate change, taking as strategic axes the improvement of access to water and the implementation of SLMP through the organized and empowered community, represents an innovative approach that seeks respond to different edges of the same problem.

140. Financial support from the Adaptation Fund is essential to carry out measures that otherwise would not be feasible to be carried out, substantially delaying the much-needed actions that allow small producers to improve their quality of life and protect their means of life subsistence, which are strongly threatened by the adverse effects of climate change in an inherently very vulnerable region such as drylands.

141. Through the implementation of this project, it seeks to complement other initiatives that are (or were) executed in the territory by the MAYDS and to respond to the existing gaps, in order to accelerate the processes of adaptation to climate change.

TABLE 5: OTHER PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES RELATED WITH THE PROJECT

Initiative/program/project	Financing	Complements/Synergizes/Reinforces
Sustainable Land Management Project in the Dry Zones of Northwest Argentina (GEF/UNDP ARG/14/G55)	GEF	Reinforces. The present project represents the continuity, upscaling and updating of this previous initiative in the framework of adaptation to climate change.
Increasing Climate resilience and Improving Sustainable Land Management in the Southwest of the Province of Buenos Aires (IBRD-TF 015041-AR / P125804)	FA	Complements. The present project will contribute to projects previously executed by the FA, with information on new territories and lessons learned regarding adaptation to CC and in turn, will benefit from the knowledge acquired for efficient management and administration of financing and the achievement of objectives.
Adaptation and resilience of family farming in Northeast Argentina (NEA) to the impact of climate change and its variability	FA	Complements. The present project will contribute to projects previously executed by the FA, with information on new territories and lessons learned regarding adaptation to CC and in turn, will benefit from the knowledge acquired for efficient management and administration of financing and the achievement of objectives.

Decision support for the integration and scaling up of Sustainable Land Management FAO - GCP/GLO/337/GFF	GEF	Complements.
National Forest Management Plan with Integrated Livestock (MBGI in Spanish)		Complement and synergizes. The present project will contribute with SLMPs
Community Forest Management through Comprehensive Community Plans (Native Forests and Community Project / IBRD 8493 – UNDP ARG/15/004)		Complement and synergizes. The present project will contribute with SLMPs
Incorporation of the sustainable use of biodiversity in the production practices of small producers to protect biodiversity in forests of high conservation value in the Atlantic Forest, Yungas and Chaco Ecoregions" (Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Project -USUBI- / GEF N°5338 - UNDP ARG/15/G53)	GEF	Complements.
Incorporation of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable land management (MST) in development planning: operationalize the Environmental Planning of the Territory in Argentina / OAR ARG / 19/G24*	GEF	Complements.

142. One of the initiatives, already implemented and finalized, that the project will complement is the Inclusive Rural Development Program (ProDERI). The purpose of this program is to promote the improvement of the social and productive conditions of poor rural families and the increase of their income, as a result of the increase of their production, the insertion in value chains and the creation of job opportunities. The Program is national in scope, with priority for the northwestern provinces and progressive scope for the rest of the country, with a temporary extension of six years. It is financed by the National State through direct funds and credits taken with international organizations. To its general strategy, three transversal strategies are added: the Gender Strategy, the Strategy for Attention to the Environment and Adaptation to Climate Change and the Strategy for Indigenous People. The Strategy for Attention to the Environment and Adaptation to Climate Change incorporates the notion of caring for the environment, with special interest in mitigating local impacts and adaptation measures to climate change. Some of the possible actions from this perspective are the incorporation of measures for the improvement of agricultural practices and the mitigation of environmental impacts in business plans and projects, development of pilot climate insurance systems, contingency funds and early warning systems, among others.

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

143. The project includes a specific section on knowledge management within Component 4, which aims to generate spaces for dialogue of knowledge where the exchange of lessons learned and the systematization of local knowledge are promoted, consolidating them as a strategic tool for the processes of decision making. In addition, as a result of the synergy that occurs in these intersectional spaces of exchange and co-production of knowledge, the impacts of the project are maximized.

144. Likewise, knowledge management has elements in each component of the project in order to strengthen the capacities of producers from NOA and Cuyo de Argentina in relation to the theme of variability and climate change and its impacts; as well as the synergy that occurs between these and the LDDD.

145. In this context, the development of specific activities to rescue the knowledge and perspectives of the beneficiary population and its diversities, with a gender and CbA

approach, is foreseen for: prioritizing and designing materials and training activities (guides and protocols of good practices); the systematization of experiences and lessons learned; monitoring and evaluation of actions; and the systematization of experiences and lessons learned, as well as the development of appropriate dissemination materials for distribution among various stakeholders.

146. These reports, in turn, are the input for the “triple loop” learning mechanism, since they systematize the progress, identify the achievements, and allow the analysis and review of the necessary adjustments for the remaining stages of the project.

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

147. The consultation and socialization process was planned and developed in the context of national presidential and simultaneous gubernatorial elections in some provinces, with some interruptions in the administrative cycle. Nevertheless, the institutional team's efforts to coordinate with the provinces and the relevant stakeholders allowed the process to be carried out during the months of October and November 2023. As a strategy, it was decided to convene the relevant social stakeholders in the territory at the institutional level, as well as organizations of indigenous peoples and groups of women producers, in order to identify priorities and needs directly, as their knowledge and territorial approach added value at the time of drafting the concept note.
148. After updating the map of key stakeholders provided by MAYDS (based on other consultation processes carried out as part of the REDD+ Readiness Programme in Argentina, provincial authorities and technicians, and the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification PAN) a participation scheme was designed, with special attention to ensure good representation of the two regions involved in the project: NOA and Cuyo.
149. The call was made following an introductory email sent by the Global Factor team and validated by MAYDS. The modality was a hybrid of face-to-face workshops and virtual interviews. A total of 123 people were interviewed, representing a 76% participation rate in the mapping of stakeholders convened and taking into account both regions. The list of interviewed stakeholders and the ones that participated in the workshops is as follows (the detailed list can be found in Annex 3):

Stakeholders (Interviews and workshops)	
NOA (Jujuy, Salta, Catamarca, Tucumán)	Cuyo (La Rioja, Mendoza, San Juan y San Luis)
<u>National Institute for Indigenous Affairs</u> INAI Desarrollo Comunitario INAI Abordaje Territorial <u>Provincial Governments Offices</u> Secretaría de Economía Popular. Jujuy. Secretaría de Relaciones Internacionales. Jujuy. Ministerio de Economía y Producción. Subs. Ambiente. Tucumán Subsecretaría de Ordenamiento Territorial de Bosques Nativos. Tucumán. Dirección Gestión Ambiental. Catamarca Dirección de biodiversidad. Catamarca Departamento Cuencas Hídricas y Clima. Catamarca Dirección de Bosques Nativos. Catamarca Secretaría de Ciencia y Técnica Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias UNJu <u>National Parks</u> APN Regional NOA APN Los Cardones APN Los Pozuelos APN El Rey Salta	<u>National Institute for Indigenous Affairs</u> INAI Desarrollo Comunitario INAI Abordaje Territorial INAI Abordaje Territorial (Mendoza/ San Juan) <u>Provincial Governments Offices</u> Secretaria de Ambiente de La Rioja Secretaría pueblos Indígenas La Rioja Instituto de Responsabilidad Social, La rioja Subsecretaría de Enlace para el Ordenamiento Territorial y Desarrollo Sostenible, La rioja Secretaría de Relaciones con la comunidad, La rioja Instituto Regional de Planificación, Control y Servicios Ambientales Secretaría de Agricultura La Rioja Secretaría de Ganadería La Rioja <u>National Parks</u> APN Sierra de Las Quijadas <u>Science Institutes</u> Instituto de planificación y servicios ambientales. CRILAR-CONICET

<u>Science Institutes</u> UNJu Manejo de Suelo y Agua UNJu Servicios ecosistémicos Instituto De Biología De Altura (INBIAL) UNJu Instituto de Ecorregiones Andinas INECHOA-CONICET Observatorio de Fenómenos Urbanos y Territoriales de la FAU UNT INTA Tucumán <u>Civil Society Organizations:</u> Red de Mujeres Rurales Pueblos Originales Jujuy, pueblo Atacama Fundación Runas Unión de Pueblos de la Nación Diaguita Tucumán	INTA Mendoza INAFCI Coordinación ONDTyD IADIZA, CONICET-UNCU <u>Civil Society Organizations:</u> Acción Verde Red de Mujeres Rurales Comunidad diaguita Olongasta LR Comunidad diaguita Millicay LR Comunidad mapuche Malargüeche MZA Comunidad huarpe Pinkantas San Juan Comunidad huarpe San Juan Fundación Humedales Fundación EISA (Estudio e Intervención SocioAmbiental) Mendoza
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150. It should be emphasized that during the process, and in particular in the consultation workshops organized by the provinces of Tucumán and La Rioja, the stakeholders brought and commented on their own proposals and some of the experiences developed during the previous NOA-Cuyo project. All of these proposals will be taken into account in the full proposal process. For example, in the case of La Rioja, the Secretary of the Environment presented a proposal for an intervention site for Component 1 of the project. This proposal will be analyzed in detail for the next stage.

151. As a summary of the consultation process, the following points can be highlighted (for the detailed process, please see ANNEX N° 3):

- a. Land tenure and the issue of community ownership; overexploitation of aquifers; the need for technical, legal and accounting support closer to the territories; and the development of communication systems and new technologies adapted to the socio-economic reality of the communities were identified as constraints.
- b. Participants from both regions highlighted the need to strengthen the articulation of pilot experiences between local and indigenous communities, small producers, SMEs and companies, as well as intersectoral dialogue and ancestral knowledge and scientific production.
- c. The revaluation of knowledge and productive practices is linked to the possibility of making traditional knowledge visible and recognizable, in order to articulate it with scientific knowledge. The scope of the dialogue of knowledge for environmental restoration has coincided optimally.
- d. The importance of taking into account young people (both men and women) is linked, above all, to promoting the rootedness and permanence of young people in rural areas by offering them development opportunities, together with older adults, linked to the recognition of ancestral knowledge and practices. These age groups are not usually identified as target groups and therefore not involved as beneficiaries.
- e. The consultations carried out revealed the importance of educational centers in rural areas and localities for the implementation of the project. It was emphasized that in order to make productive development viable, it is necessary to give rural families the opportunity to stay in the communities and to reverse the trend of migration. In this sense, it is essential to provide the same educational opportunities that exist in the cities and to offer a good quality of life in places like those that the project intends to impact.
- f. With regard to gender and diversity, a large number of institutions have been identified in the area that are working on the gender and diversity perspective in TH.

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

152. The drylands of the NOA and Cuyo of Argentina, present an intrinsic ecosystem vulnerability given by the marked water deficit; fragile soils of incipient development and low productivity; conditioning by altitude, geomorphology and geology; in other aspects.

153. This results in a high susceptibility of these systems to LDDD processes (especially water and wind erosion), which end up having a strong impact on the low-scale agricultural production structure and a high degree of informality that characterizes rural communities and of native people that inhabit these regions. These communities, which often live in conditions of not being able to satisfy their basic needs, are then at a disadvantage when facing the challenges posed by climate change.
154. This synergy that occurs between LDDD and the current and future impacts of climate change on the agri-food systems of the drylands, deepening the vulnerability of rural communities; it has not been previously addressed in a comprehensive manner. Although there are policies in place that target highly vulnerable producers, these were not developed with consideration of the effects that climate change and climate variability can have on the productive processes of this particular social segment.
155. Through the implementation of this project, we will work with a rural territorial development approach in order to contribute to the adaptation of rural communities in the drylands of northwestern Argentina, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
156. In this sense, the requested financing will complement the interventions that are being carried out in the territories of the proposed intervention areas; It will strengthen the actions of proven success carried out within the framework of other antecedent projects to enhance their impacts and, fundamentally, it will fully address the climate adaptation needs in the NOA Cuyo from a comprehensive approach.
157. The actions planned to be executed in the project fully respond to this need and, through their execution, are sufficient to achieve the general objective of proposed adaptation of strengthening the community resilience of the rural populations of drylands of the Argentine Cuyo NOA, without need of the contribution of other donors.

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

The sustainability of the project has been taken into account in 3 aspects:

1) Agreements and commitments assumed by the Argentine Republic: The proposal has been developed within the framework of the national climate change strategies in conjunction with those of LDDD, so its implementation and subsequent sustainability are directly linked to the commitments assumed by the country versus UNFCCC and UNCCD. This ensures that, strategically, the implementation and monitoring of the activities contemplated in the project beyond its execution horizon, is guaranteed by the participation of national and provincial public bodies that respond to long-term plans such as:

a.- For Climate Change: the three National Communications; the three Biennial Update Reports; the two Communications Determined at the National Level and the National Plan for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change (**RESOL N° 146/2023**).

b.- For LDDD: the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation (PAN); the **National** Voluntary Goals for Land Degradation Neutrality and the Provincial Action Plans to Fight LDDD **of the Northwest and Cuyo Provinces**.

2) Strengthening the community at the local level: The permanent support and technical advice provided throughout the project's implementation cycle is intended to empower grassroots social groups **and strengthen local enforcement authorities**. Encourage the associativity of those who have not yet joined together and consolidate normatively and institutionally the existing social organizations. These are just some of the results that the project seeks to achieve so that climate change adaptation actions last over time. Likewise,

the training of beneficiaries both in workshops and in the territory and the transfer of information and the exchange of knowledge fostered in the planned participation spaces, result in the acquisition of knowledge and its co-production.

3) Maintenance of infrastructure, equipment and interventions carried out by the project:

The project plans to allocate 69% of the funds to material investments to improve access to water, implement SLMP, develop local value chains and locally managed financing mechanisms. Most of these investments in infrastructure and capital increase the income of rural families and communities, due to higher productivity, greater added value and greater investment capacity. Additionally, component 2 strengthens the capacity of local organizations to manage, maintain and expand their productive resources. Both through a greater flow of income and greater management capacity, local communities will be empowered to maintain and expand the investments made by the project.

4) Participatory process: The participatory approach will be applied throughout the implementation of the project, helping to strengthen the project beneficiaries in their ownership, which is expected to reinforce the sustainability of the results and the long-term impact of the project investments. **Working together with the provincial jurisdictions is fundamental in this process; the provinces are providers of management tools, as is the case for this proposal, based on the information gathered from the Jujuy Provincial Response Plan.**

5) Strategic and priority approaches for implementation: Project design considers mainstreaming in all its components of three approaches: gender and diversities perspective with an intersectional approach; Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and community-based adaptation (CbA). In this way, the project guarantees the participation of those involved in the actions of the project, which is central to ensuring its sustainability. In this sense, component 4 considers the incorporation of local knowledge in knowledge management and monitoring processes. Likewise, component 3 is aimed at strengthening the capacities of local producer groups and organizations that inhabit the prioritized eco regions, thus collaborating in the installation of capacities in the territories.

158. All the activities that this project involves will be guided by the guidelines that guide the free, informed and consensual consultation processes established by national protocols. In particular for the approach to work with the native population, which constitutes an important part of the target population of this proposal, the project will be conducted following the guidelines established by current provincial, national and international legislation, **considering, in turn, the provincial authorities in the area of indigenous rights**, paying special attention to the appropriate use of the forms and the language to guarantee the participation of the communities, and the incorporation of their visions in the implementation of the various planned actions.

159. The articulation with institutions and social organizations present in the territory and the trajectory of joint work, facilitate the execution of the project and allow facing possible changes in the political-institutional scenario.

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

160. Below is a preliminary analysis of the impacts and risks of the Project according to the Environmental and Social Principles of the Adaptation Fund in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund. Overall, the project has been classified as a Category B project according to the FA's E&SP, as the potential impacts are few, small-scale, and not extremely widespread, reversible, or easy to mitigate.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
<i>Compliance with the Law</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	All applicable proposed projects must comply with the current environmental legislation of the Argentine Republic in general and that of specific issues (such as soil conservation; climate change, land degradation, water resources; among others) in particular; including the regulations corresponding to the sub-national jurisdictions in which the project will be implemented. Within the framework of the General Environmental Law of the Nation No. 25,675 (GO 11/28/2002), as a national environmental law of minimum budgets that provides the legal basis, principles and requirements to be supplemented at the provincial level, its Regulatory and Modifying Decrees; As well as the environmental legislation of each province, the measures and actions proposed in Component 1 will be carried out. In this context, in the full proposal stage, it will be reviewed which project proposed within Component 1 (Paragraphs 65 to 76) will require a request for authorizations and / or Environmental Impact Assessments according to the provinces to be efficient in the presentation times and necessary administrative procedures.
<i>Access and Equity</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	The project seeks to provide equitable access for different groups to productive resources, services and markets; strengthening, for example, the participation of women and diversities in decision-making and in the social organizations of the beneficiary communities; thus ensuring that all stakeholders benefit equally from the Interventions foreseen in the project and that inequality is not reinforced or continues to perpetuate. (See Component 2 paragraphs 78-88 and Component 3, paragraphs 88-92) Although the entire project is designed in this context, a more exhaustive analysis will be carried out during the Full Proposal stage to avoid incurring in any activity or measure that could harm the access and equity of any group.
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	The beneficiaries have been identified based on the results of the implementation of the MST-NOA Cuyo project (UNDP ARG 14 / G55) and some groups of rural woman and indigenous people have been identified during consultation process. Next step, at the Full Proposal stage, the analysis will be expanded regarding the project beneficiaries in order to ensure full and equitable access for all sectors, identifying those groups that will require more attention during the execution of the project. All these initiatives will be implemented respecting the right to free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples; promoting their ancestral and traditional knowledge and promoting respect for their rights and that of the community lands they inhabit.
<i>Human Rights</i>	No further assessment required for compliance	The project promotes fundamental human rights through the implementation of activities that will increase awareness and develop the capacity of rural people and small producers and vulnerable actors within the project's area of intervention. Since there are no proposed projects that have a negative impact on human rights, there is no further evaluation need for this criterion.
<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	The country has made significant progress in the enactment of regulations that protect the rights of women and diversities (Law 26,485), as well as in promoting the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in public policies (Law 27,499). However, gender gaps persist, particularly related to income, working conditions, participation in decision-making, among others, for which reason the project incorporates the gender and diversities perspective in each Component with different products and specific activities sensitive to gender and diversity. Even so, it is proposed to carry out a more exhaustive Gender and Diversity Assessment during the Full Proposal stage, for which it will be exclusive to have a Consultancy that provides relevant specialized knowledge in gender matters.
<i>Core Labor Rights</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	This project is designed within the framework of current legislation on labor law, so there is no further need for evaluation for this criterion.
<i>Indigenous People</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	The indigenous peoples approach integrates the mechanisms of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), the basic principles of self-determination, respect for indigenous knowledge, traditional cultures and practices that contribute to sustainable and equitable development. Even so, during the Full Proposal stage, it will be relevant to explore ways, through formal FPIC processes, so that the different worldviews of indigenous peoples are taken into account, in order to maximize the local effectiveness of the implementation of the project activities, including the delivery of

		benefits to these actors. All this within the framework of current regulations, constitutional regulations and International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 for the rights of indigenous peoples and Family Agriculture Law 27118 for peasants and other communities.
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	The project does not foresee relocation activities for groups, people and / or communities.
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	The components of the project are designed so that they do not negatively impact the existing natural habitats in the intervention areas of the project. On the contrary, the project addresses the critical environmental particularities inherent to the drylands of northwestern Argentina, which enhance the vulnerability of these natural systems to climate change. In the framework of the project, all sites that have a legal conservation status, whether at the local, provincial, national or international level, or recognized as protected by local traditional or indigenous communities, are identified and recognized. And they are put in value through the implementation of the SLMP and improvements in access to water in communities strengthened from the social and economic productive.
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	The project will be developed within the conceptual framework of EbA and CbA. Therefore, all the proposed interventions consider the sustainable use of biodiversity. This becomes relevant within the framework of the commitments assumed by the Argentine Republic in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (ratified by national law in 1996); and in accordance with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action prepared by the country to specifically plan the sustainable use of biodiversity. Likewise, an additional evaluation during the full proposal stage is recommended to guarantee adequate consideration of the singularities of the project intervention sites.
<i>Climate Change</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	Argentina has Law No. 27,520 on Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change, which also creates the National Climate Change Cabinet and a sub-national structure. It has an NDC and sectoral plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change. All the activities envisaged in the project are a priori in line with the regulations cited above and with the safeguarding of the Adaptation Fund since none of the proposed interventions tends "to a significant or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change". These are activities linked to the sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable land management, access to water, agro-ecological production, and value added to community-scale production and marketing. It is not expected to increase Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions during the implementation of the project.
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	The project seeks to promote the sustainable use of natural resources minimizing (through appropriate techniques and through the incorporation of technology), the use of them, the production of waste and the emission of pollutants. For example: incorporation of technology for the use of solar energy.
<i>Public Health</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	The project promotes the improvement of access to water, which constitutes an important factor for improving hygiene and food conditions, which is expected to contribute to improving the health conditions of the communities involved.
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>	Further assessment required for compliance	The actions of the project are not expected to have an impact on archaeological sites and areas of heritage interest. The project promotes the enhancement of cultural heritage as a key strategy for strengthening the identity of communities and adding value to local production. During the Full Proposal stage, work will be done jointly with the communities of native peoples and beneficiaries of the project to identify the tangible and intangible cultural heritage for the purpose of its proper consideration in each of the intervention sites.
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>	No Further assessment required for compliance	This project is framed within the principles and objectives of the UNCCD and the UNFCCC and the agreements and commitments assumed by the Argentine Republic in this context. The adoption and implementation of the SLMP that this project seeks to promote, are within the framework of the PAN and the PAPs and are also mostly validated by institutional and scientific mechanisms and by projects already implemented in the NOA Cuyo of Argentina. All these practices aim to avoid land degradation, restore soil productivity and make sustainable use of water resources.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

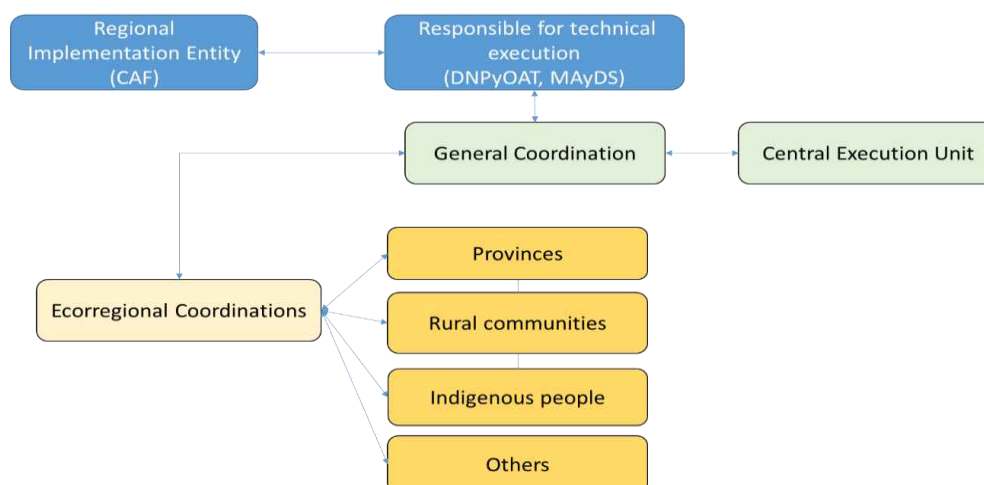
A. Describe the arrangements for project implementation.

161. The Regional Implementation Entity (ERI) for the project is the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), accredited to the Adaptation Fund in 2014 as the first ERI for Latin America. It will fulfill the functions that correspond to an (ERI) in accordance with the fiduciary and operational standards required at the time of its accreditation.
162. In turn, the technical execution of the project will be in charge of the National Directorate of Planning and Environmental Regulation of the Territory of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, who will be responsible for organizing an Executing Unit (EU) both inland of the MAyDS as with possible partners necessary for the execution, **and the General Directorate of Projects with External Financing and International Cooperation (DGPFEyCI) under the Undersecretariat of Administrative Management of the aforementioned Ministry (SSGA), which will be responsible for administrative and financial management. The General Directorate of Legal Affairs, which reports to the SSGA, provides legal services and support. The National Observatory of Drylands and Desertification¹⁹, also under the same Ministry, will have the role of a technical council providing methodological and technical support. This will be particularly necessary in Component 1. Letters of agreement may also be signed with the provinces for the joint implementation of project activities.**
163. A General Coordinator of the project will be appointed who will be in charge, together with the EU team, of organizing the day-to-day operations of the project. In this sense, their functions will be: to supervise the execution of the different components, to write the evaluation reports and to coordinate, supervise and support the various activities related to the execution of the project. Likewise, there will be Ecoregional Territorial Coordinators who will have the function of supervising the activities in the field and inter-sectorial linkage and with the provincial / s and will report to the General Coordinator.
164. In turn, the territorial coordinators will be in permanent contact and will be supported in the implementation, by the units belonging to other areas of the national government with a provincial seat and by any other institution and / or organization that may be carrying out territorial actions with which this project could be complemented.

¹⁹ The National Observatory on Land Degradation and Desertification (ONDTyD) is a national system for land assessment and monitoring at different scales (national, regional and pilot sites), based on an integrated, interdisciplinary and participatory approach. It is supported by a network of scientific, technical and policy organizations that provide data and knowledge and are also users of the information. Interactive maps, publications and an online geospatial data repository are being developed for its visualization.

The overall objective of the ONDTyD is to provide information on the status, trends and risks of land degradation and desertification in order to develop proposals and promote prevention, control and mitigation measures, to advise public and private decision-makers in Argentina, and to raise awareness and inform society in general. For further information: <http://www.desertificacion.gob.ar/el-observatorio/presentacion/>

FIGURE 4: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT



B. Describe the measures for financial and project risk management.

RISK	LEVEL	RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Institutional Changes at National and/or Provincial level	MEDIUM	The Regional Implementation Entity (ERI) for the project is the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), accredited to the All the activities proposed in the project related to communication, intersectional participation and exchange of knowledge and experiences; Among others, they will play a key role in maintaining the link between the rest of the key non-governmental actors (assisted by the Implementing Entity and the Territorial Coordination), contributing to the articulation and maintenance of activities during periods of change of authorities.
Complexity in the procedures of the financial management of the project that could delay its execution and of the administrative management within the institutions in charge of the execution	MEDIUM	To mitigate any possible risk of delay in administrative management within the institutions responsible for execution, the project foresees the incorporation of professionals specialized in the area of accounting and administrative support for the UEC. During the stage of presentation of the Final Proposal, work will be done to detect possible
Changes in macroeconomic policies that affect the availability or value of foreign exchange	LOW	Variations in the exchange rate could negatively affect the implementation of the project if the importation of goods and services were required. On the contrary, the project seeks to strengthen the domestic market and local production and marketing chains as one of the measures for adaptation to climate change, not requiring imported inputs. Likewise, if this were necessary and the implementation of the project was affected by exchange rate fluctuations, the ERI and / or the UEC would assume the necessary costs to resolve the situation, since, for example, the national government has special assistance programs for small producers according to their specific activities with which they can be assisted.
Implementation partners may be affected by their operational capacity in the territory	LOW	It may happen that some institutions or organizations may be affected, for various reasons, their operational capacity in the territory. To mitigate any possible impact that this could cause in the project execution times, it has been thought and designed with institutional arrangements that allow progress between the ERI and the UEC with the territorial coordinators independently, while the implementing partners solve your situation.

C. Describe the measures for environmental and social risk management, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

RISK	LEVEL	RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Pandemic Situation that could complicate field activities	MEDIUM	Argentina has a high level of vaccinated population, according to the report of the public vaccination monitor, 60% of the population is fully vaccinated. If current Covid-19 pandemic conditions persist, national and provincial protocols and WHO standards will continue to be adopted. Likewise, if the situation demands confinement measures again, the training, exchanges of knowledge and experiences and the workshops must be carried out in virtual and / or mixed modality according to the capacity of assistance of allowed persons. Finally, the provinces, territorial coordinators and implementation partners with a territorial presence should assume a more active role in linking with the beneficiaries while these measures are in force.
Climatic variability	MEDIUM	The changing and / or seasonal climatic conditions characteristic of the project intervention areas could affect the success of certain adaptation measures implemented during its life cycle. In this sense, the partner institutions in the implementation of the project with a strong territorial presence such as INTA, which can provide information from the monitoring and early warning systems, as well as all the technical advisory work in the territory contemplated by the project, are particularly relevant. the permanent accompaniment of the beneficiaries and in their training for a sustainable management of their lands. If necessary, the Argentine government has special assistance programs for emergencies and agricultural disasters.

D. Describe the monitoring and evaluation arrangements and provide a budgeted M&E plan, in compliance with the ESP and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

165. The monitoring and evaluation actions are foreseen for the Project Execution Cost and the Implementing Entity Fee, and include participatory processes with a gender and diversity perspective.

Monitoring and Evaluation Activity	Expected Products	Responsible Parties	Estimated budget	Estimated term
Monitoring and Evaluation Coordination	Rescue experiences and lessons learned, as well as criteria for the design of communication materials appropriate to the target community.	National Directorate of Planning and Environmental Regulation of the Territory of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation	US\$ 155.155	Five years
Monitoring and Evaluation Activity		Responsible Parties	Estimated budget	Estimated term
AF Environmental, Social Policy fulfillment		CAF	US\$ 60.000	Five years
AF Gender Policy fulfillment		CAF	US\$ 60.000	Five years
Technical support and backstopping by personnel from CAF		CAF	US\$ 150.000	Five years
TOTAL BUDGET (PMC and IE Fee)			US\$ 425.155	

E. Include a results framework for the project proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators, including one or more core outcome indicators of the Adaptation Fund Results Framework, and in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

CORE OUTCOME INDICATORS OF THE AF RESULTS FRAMEWORK	PROJECT OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TARGETS
6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	1.1 The efficient use of water resources increases in all sectors ensuring the sustainability of the extraction and supply of fresh water to face water scarcity.	Indicator: # of trainings carried out both in workshops and field # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups	Target: At least 7 workshops or field training activities carried out in each intervention area (28 in total) At least 40% of those trained are women and/or vulnerable groups.
		Indicator: # investments done to achieve sustainability from the extraction and supply of water financed by the project	Target: At least 7 investments financed by the project made in each intervention area (28-in total). 50% of the investments must be in charge of women and/or vulnerable groups.
6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	1.2 Small and medium scale producers adopt and implement SLMP to prevent, reduce and / or mitigate LDDD; revaluing their cultural practices and strengthening the sustainable and resilient management of agro ecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of the impacts of climate change.	Indicator: # guides and protocols developed and disseminated	Target: At least 1 protocol and / or guide developed and disseminated by area of intervention (4 in total)
		Indicator: # of trainings, experiences and recommendations developed by women and groups of rural women with a gender and diversities perspective # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups	Target: At least 2 definitions of priorities and training modalities per area of intervention (8 in total) prepared together with women and/or vulnerable groups.
		Indicator: # of trainings carried out in workshops and in the field	Target: At least 7 workshops or field training activities carried out in each intervention area (28 in total)
		Indicator: # investments made for the SLMP implementation financed by the project # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups	Target: At least 57 investments financed by the project made in each intervention area (280-in total). 50% of the investments must be in charge of women and/or vulnerable groups.
6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	2.1 The capacities of the groups and local organizations of producers and producers that inhabit the prioritized eco regions are consolidated and strengthened.	Indicator: # of formally constituted social organizations Instrument, mechanism to verify experience in the promotion of gender equity and respect for diversity.	Target: At least 4 social organizations formally constituted for each area of intervention (16-in total) that promote gender equity and diversities.
		Indicator: # of intersectional meetings facilitated for the exchange of experiences	Target: At least 1 annual meeting held in each intervention area (24 in total - 4 annual meetings x 6 years)

6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods	2.2 Rural women who inhabit the prioritized eco regions are empowered to achieve their effective participation in the processes of development of the territory and strengthened in the actions of adaptation to climate change.	Indicator: # Training and support in the exercise of managerial roles of rural women # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups	Target: At least 4 workshops per area of intervention (in total 16 workshops)
8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated 8.2. No. of key findings on effective, efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies generated	3.1 Local and regional markets are promoted as centers for the commercialization of products and the development of actions and investments aimed at adding value for the production associated with SLMP and the efficient use of water resources with an EbA and CbA approach is strengthened.	Indicator: # investments made for marketing and adding local value.	Target: At least 3 investments financed by the project made in each intervention area (12 in total)
		Indicator: # of strategies (certifications, seals, collective marks, appellations of origin) developed and incorporated.	Target: At least 2 strategies developed and incorporated in each intervention area (8 in total)
		Indicator: # of locally managed financing mechanisms in operation	Target: at least 5 financing mechanisms in operation in each intervention area (20 in total)
3.1. Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses. 3.2. Modification in targeted population behavior	4.1 Traditional and ancestral knowledge provide information for a better understanding of climate variability at the local level and to strengthen the generational transfer of knowledge	Indicator: # of intersectional meetings facilitated for the systematization of experiences and lessons learned, planning and evaluation, and exchange of experiences. # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups	Target: At least 1 annual meeting held in each intervention area (24 in total - 4 annual meetings x 6 years) At least 40% of the participants in the meetings are women and/or vulnerable groups.
	4.2 The Project is implemented in the prioritized eco regions, in coordination with local partners, monitoring, evaluating the actions carried out and communicating their results.	Indicators: in the Full Proposal stage, a package of results indicators (of achievements, activity and impact) and management (process and resources indicators) and the evaluation schedule (added to the mid-term evaluation and final already planned by the FA).	
		Indicator: # of communication materials reflecting results and lessons learned published and distributed	Target: at least one communication material (publications or audiovisuals) edited and distributed to the relevant audiences in each year of the project (total 6)

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

Project Objective(s) ²⁰	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)

²⁰ ¹ The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

Increase the efficient use of water resources in all sectors and ensure the sustainability of freshwater extraction and supply to address water scarcity.		Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods disaggregated by gender and vulnerable groups.	US\$ 2.181.050
Promote among small and medium-scale producers the adoption and implementation of SLMP to prevent, reduce and / or mitigate desertification, land degradation and drought (DDTS); revaluing cultural practices and strengthening the sustainable and resilient management of agroecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of the impacts of climate change.		Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods disaggregated by gender and vulnerable groups.	US\$ 2.181.050
Consolidate and enhance the capacities of local producer groups and organizations that inhabit the prioritized ecoregions		Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative livelihoods disaggregated by gender and vulnerable groups.	US\$ 162.930
Empower rural women who inhabit the prioritized ecoregions, to achieve their effective participation in the territorial development processes and strengthen them in actions to adapt to climate change.		Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	6.1 Percentage of households and communities having more secure access to livelihood assets, differentiated by female-headed households and male-headed households.	US\$ 351.244
Develop and implement financing mechanisms and value chains managed by the local producer organizations themselves, which support the adoption of SLMP and measures to improve access to water with an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Adaptation-based approach. in Communities (CbA).		Outcome 8: Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level.	US\$ 2.690.831
Implement the Project in the prioritized eco regions, in coordination with local partners, monitoring, evaluating,		Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk	3.1. Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of	US\$ 810.368

communicating and disseminating its results.		reduction processes at local level	appropriate responses, broken down by gender and vulnerable groups 3.2. Modification in targeted population behavior	
----------------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
1.1 The efficient use of water resources increases in all sectors ensuring the sustainability of the extraction and supply of fresh water to face water scarcity.	Indicator: # of trainings carried out in workshops and in the field Indicator: # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups. Indicator: # investments made to achieve sustainability of water extraction and supply financed by the project	Output 6: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	6.1.1.No. and type of adaptation assets (tangible and intangible) created or strengthened in support of individual or community livelihood strategies 6.1.2. Type of income sources for households generated under climate change scenario	US\$ 2.181.050
1.2 Small and medium scale producers adopt and implement SLMP to prevent, reduce and / or mitigate LDDD; revaluing their cultural practices and strengthening the sustainable and resilient management of agro ecosystems that contribute to the achievement of food security in the face of the impacts of climate change.	Indicator: # guides and protocols developed and disseminated Indicator: # of trainings, experiences and recommendations developed by women and groups of rural women with a gender and diversities perspective Indicator: # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups. Indicator: # of trainings carried out in workshops and in the field Indicator: # of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups. Indicator: # investments made for the SLMP implementation financed by the project	Output 6: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	6.1.1.No. and type of adaptation assets (tangible and intangible) created or strengthened in support of individual or community livelihood strategies 6.1.2. Type of income sources for households generated under climate change scenario	US\$ 2.181.050
2.1 The capacities of the groups and local organizations of producers and producers that inhabit the	Indicator: # of formally constituted social organizations	Output 6: Targeted individual and community	6.2. Percentage of targeted population with sustained climate-resilient alternative	US\$ 162.930

prioritized eco regions are consolidated and strengthened.	<p># of organizations with women and/or vulnerable groups in management positions.</p> <p>Instrument, mechanism to verify experience in promoting gender equity and respect for diversity.</p> <p>Indicator: # of intersectional meetings facilitated for the exchange of experiences</p>	livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	livelihoods, disaggregated by gender and/or vulnerable groups	
2.2 Rural women and vulnerable groups who inhabit the prioritized ecoregions are empowered to achieve their effective participation in the processes of development of the territory and strengthened in the actions of adaptation to climate change.	<p>Indicator: # Training and support in the exercise of managerial roles of rural women</p> <p># of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups</p>	Output 6: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	6.1 Percentage of households and communities having more secure access to livelihood assets	US\$ 351.244
3.1 Local and regional markets are promoted as centers for the commercialization of products and the development of actions and investments aimed at adding value for the production associated with SLMP and the efficient use of water resources with an EbA and CbA approach is strengthened.		Output 8: Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level.	US\$ 2.690.831
4.1 Traditional and ancestral knowledge provide information for a better understanding of climate variability at the local level and to strengthen the generational transfer of knowledge	<p>Indicator: # investments made for marketing and adding local value.</p> <p># of attendees broken down by gender and vulnerable groups</p>	Output 3: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities, disaggregated by gender and/or vulnerable groups	<p>3.1.1 No. and type of risk reduction actions or strategies introduced at local level".</p> <p>3.1.2 No. of news outlets in the local press and media that have covered the topic.</p>	US\$ 533.716
4.2 A Regional Knowledge Sharing Adaptation Platform is established for enhance climate change resilience of rural communities of the Northwest of Argentina	<p>Indicator: the Knowledge Sharing Adaptation Platform on line.</p> <p>Indicator: # of communication materials reflecting results and lessons learned published and distributed</p>	Output 3: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	<p>3.1.1 No. and type of risk reduction actions or strategies introduced at local level".</p> <p>3.1.2 No. of news outlets in the local press and media that have covered the topic.</p>	US\$ 276.652

G. *Include a detailed budget with budget notes, a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use, and an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs.*

This section will be developed during Full Proposal preparation.


H. *Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.*

The payment schedule will be accommodated in the final presentation to the scheme developed in the budget and will respond to the implementation stages of the different subcomponents and products associated with them.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government

Project “Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina facing climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices”.

<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p><small>Martin Manuel Illescas Director General de Proyectos con Financiamiento Externo y Cooperación Internacional Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible</small></p> <p>B0AABFDCE236493...</p> <p>Name: Mr. Martin Manuel Illescas Position: Director of Projects with External Financing Ministry: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Date: December 7th, 2023</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------

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

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

I certify that the national project proposal "**Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina facing climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices**" has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project.

DocuSigned by:



DDB6954B1401403...
Ignacio Lorenzo Arana

Director of Technical Advisory on Biodiversity and Climate – CAF

Implementing Entity Coordinator

Date: December 7th, 2023

Tel.: +598 29173211

E-mail: ilorenzo@caf.com

Project Contact Person:

Miguel Alejandro Guzmán Mendoza / Oscar Javier Guevara Arévalo

Tel.: +598 29173211

Email: mguzman@caf.com / oguevara@caf.com



ADAPTATION FUND

Letter of Endorsement by Government

**Government of the Republic of Argentina
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development**

December 7th, 2023

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

Subject: Endorsement of the Concept Note ***“Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina facing climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices”***

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above Concept Note proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by CAF Latin American Development Bank (Corporación Andina de Fomento).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


Martin Manuel Illescas
Director General de Proyectos con Financiamiento Externo
y Cooperación Internacional
Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible

B0AABFDCE236493...

Mr. Martin Manuel Illescas

Director of Projects with External Financing of this Ministry
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Certificado de finalización

Identificador del sobre: D3F1EA756903407AB46B61AEC67AB1D7

Estado: Completado

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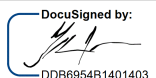
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Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Allow per session cookies•Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection

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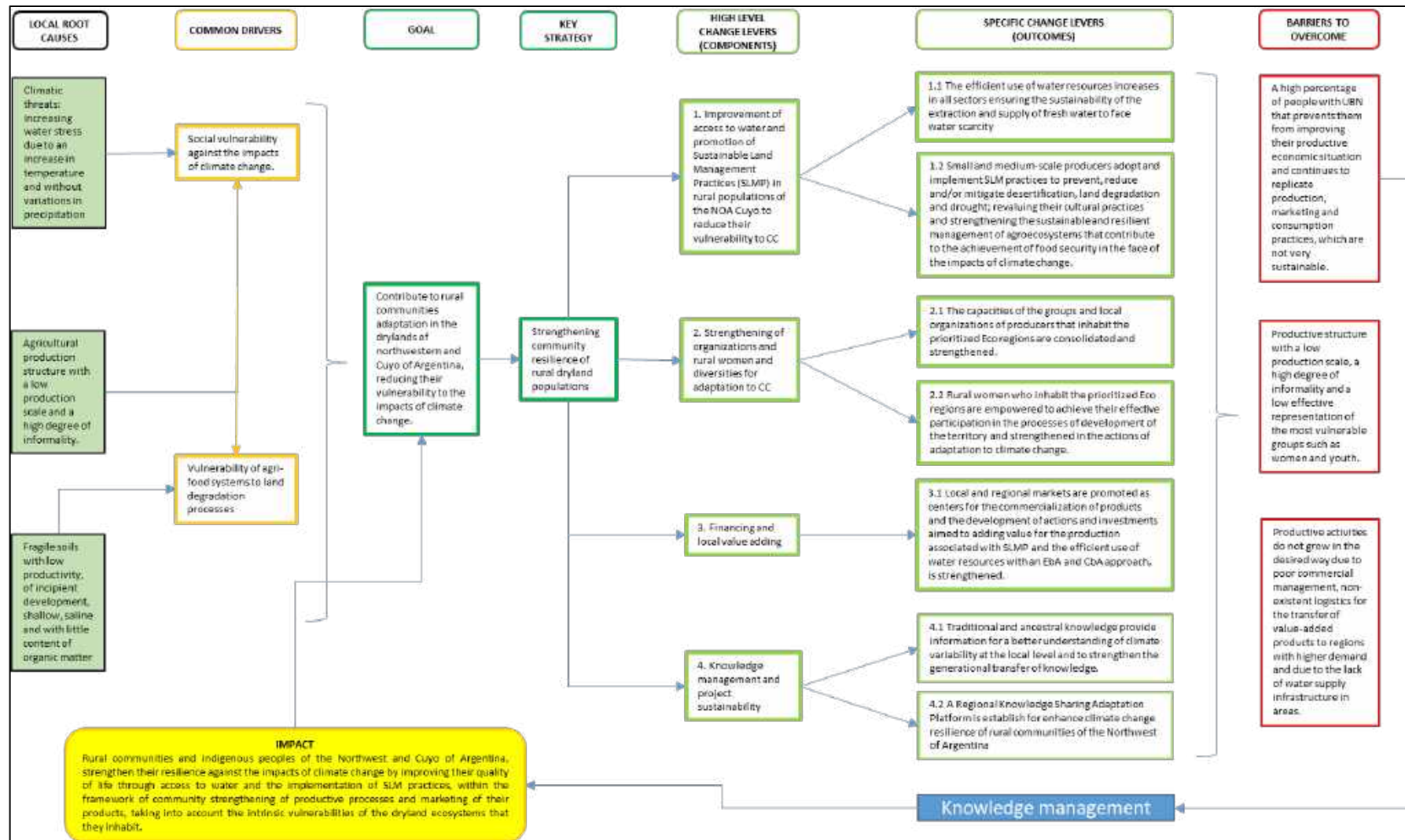
ANEXO 1: ÍNDICE DE SIGLAS Y ACRÓNIMOS**ANNEX 1: INDEX OF ACRONYMS**

SIGLA	ESPAÑOL	ACRONYM	ENGLISH
AbC	Adaptación Basada en Comunidades	CbA	Community Based Adaptation
AbE	Adaptación Basada en Ecosistemas	EbA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
CAF	Corporación Andina de Fomento- Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina	CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CC	Cambio Climático	CC	Climate Change
CDN	Contribución Determinada a Nivel nacional	NDC	National Determined Contribution
CMNUCC	Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático	UNFCCC	United Nation Framework to Combat Climate Change
CMS	Comité Multisectorial	MSC	Multisectoral Committee
CNULD	Convención de las Naciones Unidas para la Lucha contra la Desertificación	UNCCD	United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification
COFEMA	Consejo Federal de Medio Ambiente	COFEMA	Environmental Federal Council
CPLel	Consulta Previa, Libre, e Informada a pueblos indígenas	FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed consent to indigenous peoples
DDTS	Desertificación, Degradación de Tierras y Mitigación de la Sequía	LDDD	Land Degradation, Desertification and Droughth
DN	Dirección Nacional (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible)	ND	National Directorate
DNPYoAT	Dirección Nacional de Planificación y Ordenamiento Ambiental del Territorio	DNPYoAT	National Directorate of Planning and Environmental Management of the Territory
DT	Degradación de Tierras	LD	Land degradation
FR	Fondo Rotatorio	RF	Revolving Fund
EAP	Explotación Agropecuaria	EAP	Agropecuary exploitation
GNCC	Gabinete Nacional de Cambio Climático	GNCC	National Cabinet of Climate Change
IADIZA	Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas	IADIZA	Argentine Institute for Arid Zones Research
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INDEC	Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos	INDEC	National Institute of Statistics and Censuses
INTA	Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria	INTA	National Institute of Agricultural Technology
IPCC	Panel Intergubernamental de Cambio Climático	IPCC	Intergubernamental Panel of Climate Change
LADA	Proyecto de evaluación de la degradación de la tierra	LADA	Land Degradation Assessment Project
MAYDS	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nación	MAYDS	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation
MST	Manejo Sustentable de Tierras	SLM	Sustainable Land Management
MST NOA-Cuyo	Proyecto de Manejo Sustentable de Tierras en el Noroeste argentino	MST NOA-Cuyo	Sustainable Land Management of argentina Northwestern Project
ODS	Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
OIT	Organización Internacional del Trabajo	ILO	International Labour Organization

Annex 5 to OPG Amended in October 2017

PAN	Programa de Acción Nacional de Lucha contra la Desertificación, Degradación de Tierras y Mitigación de la Sequía.	NAP	National Action Plan to Fight Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation.
PAP	Plan de Acción Provincial de Lucha contra la Desertificación, Degradación de Tierras y Mitigación de la Sequía.	PAP	Provincial Action Plan to Fight Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Mitigation.
PMST	Prácticas de Manejo Sustentable de Tierras	SLMP	Sustainable Land Management Practices
PNUD	Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PP	Pequeños productores	SP	Small Producers
NBI	Necesidades Básicas Insatisfechas	UBN	Unmet Basic Needs
NOA	Noroeste de Argentina	NOA	Northwestern Argentina
SAyDS	Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación	SAyDS	Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation
SIG-IDE	Sistema de Información Geográfica – Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales	GIS-SDI	Geographic Information Systems - Infrastructure of Spatial Data
TCN	Tercera Comunicación Nacional de la República Argentina a la CMNUCC	TNC	Third National Communication of the Argentine Republic to the UNFCCC

ANEXO 2: TEORÍA DEL CAMBIO – ANNEX 2: THEORY OF CHANGE



Project report on the consultation process (interviews and consultative workshops) carried out during the structuring and formulation of the Concept Note.

Consultancy on the structuring and formulation of a Concept Note and
Financing Proposal to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund for the
Project.

Project: Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the
drylands of the Northwest and Cuyo regions of Argentina in the face of
climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of
sustainable land management practices - Argentina .

December 2023



Ministerio de Ambiente
y Desarrollo Sostenible
Argentina

globalfactor



CAF BANCO DE DESARROLLO
DE AMÉRICA LATINA

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List of abbreviations

APN	National Parks Administration
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean-Andean Development Corporation
CONICET	National Council for Scientific and Technical Research
CPI	Indigenous Participation Council
ENGdYCC	National Strategy on Gender, Diversity and Climate Change
IADIZA	Argentine Research Institute of Arid Zones
INA	National Water Institute
INAFCI	National Institute of Family, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture
INAI	National Institute of Indigenous Affairs
INBIAL	Institute of High-Altitude Biology
INECOA	Institute of Andean Ecoregions
INTA	National Institute of Agricultural Technology
MAYDS	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
NAP	National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
NBI	Unsatisfied Basic Needs
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEA	Northeastern Argentina
NOA	Northwestern Argentina
ONDTyD	National Observatory of Land Degradation and Desertification
OTBN	Territorial Planning of Native Forest
P.A.P.	Provincial Action Plan
PISEAR	National Program for Social Inclusion in Rural Areas
PNAYMCC	National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan to 2030
POT	Land Management Program
PRAT-PAJ	Land Regularization and Allocation Program for the Aboriginal Population of Jujuy
PROCANOR	Economic Insertion Program
ResPUM	Provincial Multiple Use Reserve
SENASA	National Agri-Food Health and Quality Service
UNJu	National University of Jujuy
UTT	Land Workers Union

1. Introduction

The project seeks to contribute to the adaptation of rural communities in arid lands of northwestern Argentina (NOA) and Cuyo, reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Working in conjunction with the National Adaptation Goal which is “to build capacities, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, in the different local governments and sectors, through measures that prioritize communities and social groups in vulnerable situations, and that incorporate the gender approach and intergenerational equity”, the project is also carried out within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Adaptation planning, according to decision 5/CP.17, is a continuous, progressive, and iterative process, whose implementation is based on the priorities identified at the national level and is understood as an integral part of a development policy and, therefore, seeks to coordinate with the country's policies, plans, programs, and sustainable development objectives. In this sense, it is necessary that this Concept Note is based on the coherent identification of adaptation needs for the targeted arid zones and the involvement of the different actors that work and implement the plans, programs, and objectives of sustainable development of the territory.

Understanding that adaptation is a way to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience, it is necessary to generate participation by local stakeholders that will allow the real and concrete implementation of the project components.

Within this framework, the consultation process has been approached with a participatory methodology based on the development of contents that will later be included in the final proposal. Thus, an attempt has been made to consult and gather information from different sectors involved in the efficient use of water resources, sustainable land management, research, community development, conservation of natural resources, etc.

Special consideration was given to involving representatives of the different areas of application of the provinces (environmental, economic development, water resources), national ministries, indigenous peoples' representatives and civil society actors. Face-to-face meetings and virtual interviews were conducted, and throughout the process the participants were key in guiding the development of the project.

Considering that the project intends to work in three (3) ecoregions with the highest rates of social vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, it was essential to carry out specific processes in the territory to ensure the participation of these specific stakeholder groups in the final proposal phase.

2. Summary of the consultation process during concept note development

A participation strategy has been developed with the purpose of seeking a representative participation in terms of geography, type of organization, age group, ethnicity, and gender. From the planning of the meetings, through the dissemination of information, to the consultations, it was agreed to have an approach based on diversity and inclusion that encourages full participation and the exercise of dialogue without any type of discrimination or exclusion. In this sense, we sought to identify, design, and plan the mechanisms and actions that would guarantee participation in a culturally appropriate, intergenerationally inclusive manner and with a gender and diversity perspective.

The consultation and socialization process were planned and developed in the face of political elections in some provinces . This brought changes of authorities at the provincial level linked to the project. In spite of this, the team's efforts to coordinate with the provinces and stakeholders eventually allowed the process to be carried out during the months of October and November 2023. As a strategy, it was decided to convene the beneficiaries in the consultation stage during the preparation phase of the Full Note, where the communities, women's groups and other social groups will be convened once they have been defined in order to ascertain their needs and priorities, and on the basis of these, finalize the formulation of the project.

Once the map of key stakeholders provided by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) was updated, based on other consultation processes carried out within the framework of the REDD+ Readiness program in Argentina and the

National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP), a participation scheme was established with special attention to ensure a good representation for the two regions involved in the project: NOA and Cuyo.

The call for proposals was made after an introductory e-mail was sent by the Global Factor team and validated by the MAYDS team. Through a hybrid approach (i.e., face-to-face workshops and virtual interviews), **a total of one hundred and twenty three (123) people were consulted with, reaching seventy six percent (76%) participation**, as measured from the mapping of stakeholders convened, taking into account both regions. Table 1 (below) containing the list of stakeholders that were interviewed and participated in the workshops.

Table 1. Summary of participatory processes

Region	Sector	Organization	Date	Participation mechanism	No. Women	No. Men	Total number of participants
NOA - CUYO	Public sector	NACI Community Development	26/10	1 virtual interview	2	0	2
NOA	Public sector	Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI) (Salta/Jujuy Tucumán/ Catamarca)	2/11	2 virtual interviews	5	11	16
CUYO	Public sector	NACI Territorial Approach (Mendoza/ San Juan)	2/11	1 virtual interview	2	2	4
NOA- CUYO	Civil Society	Rural Women's Network	23/10	1 virtual interview	3	0	3
CUYO	Scientific-technical	Observatorio Nacional de Degradación de Tierras y Desertificación (ONDTyD) Coordination Argentine Research Institute of Arid Zones (IADIZA), National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET)-UNCU	26/9	1 virtual interview	1	1	2
NOA Catamarca Tucumán Jujuy	Provincial Government	Secretariat of Popular Economy. Ministry of Economic Development and Production. Jujuy. Secretariat of International Relations. Jujuy. Ministry of Economy and Production. Subs. Environment. Tucumán Ministry of Productive Development.	25/10	1 virtual interview	3	8	11

Region	Sector	Organization	Date	Participation mechanism	No. Women	No. Men	Total number of participants
		<p>Undersecretary of Territorial Management of Native Forests. Directorate of Flora, Wildlife and Soils.</p> <p>Tucumán</p> <p>Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment. Environmental Management Directorate. Catamarca</p> <p>Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment. Biodiversity management. Catamarca</p> <p>Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment. Secretary of the Environment, Water Basins, and Climate Department. Catamarca</p> <p>Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment. Secretary of the Environment Directorate of Native Forests. Catamarca</p>					

Region	Sector	Organization	Date	Participation mechanism	No. Women	No. Men	Total number of participants
NOA Puna	Scientific-technical	Secretariat of Science and Technique Faculty of Agricultural Sciences UNJu UNJu Soil and Water Management UNJu Ecosystem services Institute of High-Altitude Biology (INBIAL) UNJu Institute of Andean Ecoregions (INECOA)-CONICET	25/10	1 virtual interview	6	0	6
NOA Calchaquí Valleys	Scientific-technical	INTA Cafayate	26/10	1 virtual interview	0	1	1
NOA Calchaquí Valleys	Regional Government	National Parks Administration (APN) Regional NOA APN Los Cardones	30/10	1 virtual interview	1	1	2
CUYO	Scientific-technical	Coordination ONDTyD IADIZA, CONICET-UNCU	1/11	1 virtual interview	2	0	2
NOA Tucumán Salta Jujuy Catamarca	Multisectorial	See Minutes section 3.1.1 participants	27/10	On-site workshop	16	18	34

Region	Sector	Organization	Date	Participation mechanism	No. Women	No. Men	Total number of participants
CUYO La Rioja Mendoza San Juan San Juan San Luis	Multisectorial	See Minutes section 3.3.1 participants	31/10	On-site workshop	17	22	39
CUYO St. Louis	Public sector	APN Sierra de Las Quijadas	15/11	1 virtual interview	0	1	1
TOTAL					58	65	123

3. Systematization of the consultation process: consultative workshops

The workshops consisted of social consultation with authorities of national and regional institutions of NOA and CUYO; provincial authorities from the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Catamarca, La Rioja, Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis; representatives of scientific and technological organizations from universities and research institutes such as the CONICET, the INTA and the APN; alongside civil society organizations in order to share knowledge and information for a better understanding of the social and environmental risks and benefits associated with the implementation of the project in the territories. The list of participants can be found in ANNEX 1.

The agenda of the event, and an example of the invitations sent out are presented below:

Hora	Actividad	Responsable
8.00 – 8.30	Recepción de los participantes	
8.30 – 9.15	Bienvenida e inauguración del taller a cargo de las Autoridades Nacionales y Provinciales responsables del proyecto	Contraparte local
9.15 – 10.00	Presentación del Fondo de Adaptación -Presentación del Fondo, Requerimientos y políticas, línea de tiempo del FA y del proyecto CAF-CUYO-NOA	Consultora Global Factor
10.00 – 10.30	Presentación institucional del proyecto y ejes de trabajo. -Presentar el proyecto, objetivos, componentes, beneficios, actividades, actores claves -Presentar el contexto socio económico, los lugares de implementación del proyecto	Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
10.30– 10.45	RECESO (café)	
10.45- 11.00	Explicación de la dinámica del trabajo participativo y organización de los grupos de trabajo - El trabajo grupal se centrará en la identificación de los siguientes puntos: i) oportunidades, ii) desafíos y/o limitaciones, iii) proyectos o estrategias complementarias en ejecución en los territorios individualizados, iv) actores relevantes a considerar. Esto permitirá enriquecer la Propuesta completa. - Cada grupo elegirá un referente que coordinará el proceso de intercambio y producción grupal. - Se convocará a los participantes a integrar grupos heterogéneos (diferentes actores e instituciones, organizaciones y género, teniendo en cuenta en cada grupo una oficina del Estado, una Ong, un representante del sector privado).	Fundación ProYungas – Global Factor
11.00-12.30	Presentación en plenario de los resultados de los grupos de trabajo - Un representante de cada grupo leerá la síntesis elaborada en conjunto para puesta en común.	Participantes
12.30-13.00	Síntesis y cierre de la jornada a cargo de responsables.	Participantes

Invitación a taller de consulta y socialización

primero
la gente



El Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, a través de la Dirección Nacional de Planificación y Ordenamiento Ambiental del Territorio tiene el agrado de invitarlo a Ud. al taller para la consulta pública y socialización del proyecto **Fortalecimiento de la resiliencia comunitaria de las poblaciones rurales de las tierras secas del noroeste argentino frente al cambio climático, mejorando el acceso al agua y la implementación de prácticas de manejo sostenible de tierras** que será solicitado al Fondo de Adaptación a través de la CAF -Banco Latinoamericano de Desarrollo. El taller será realizado por la empresa Global Factor junto a la Fundación ProYungas.

Esperamos en esta oportunidad contar con su valiosa presencia y aportes.

En caso de participar más de una persona de la institución, agradeceríamos procurar la representatividad de los distintos grupos (género, etnia).

Fecha y lugar: 27 de Octubre 2023 - Salón de Caja Popular de Ahorros (Hipódromo)

Av. Leguizamo 800 - San Miguel de Tucumán



Ministerio de Ambiente
y Desarrollo Sostenible
Argentina



GOBIERNO DE
TUCUMÁN



DIRECCIÓN NACIONAL DE
PLANIFICACIÓN Y ORDENAMIENTO
AMBIENTAL



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FAVOR DE CONFIRMAR ASISTENCIA

Invitación a taller de consulta y socialización

primero
la gente



El Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, a través de la Dirección Nacional de Planificación y Ordenamiento Ambiental del Territorio tiene el agrado de invitarlo a Ud. al taller para la consulta pública y socialización del proyecto **Fortalecimiento de la resiliencia comunitaria de las poblaciones rurales de las tierras secas del noroeste argentino frente al cambio climático, mejorando el acceso al agua y la implementación de prácticas de manejo sostenible de tierras** que será solicitado al Fondo de Adaptación a través de la CAF -Banco Latinoamericano de Desarrollo. El taller será realizado por la empresa Global Factor junto a la Fundación ProYungas.

Esperamos en esta oportunidad contar con su valiosa presencia y aportes.

En caso de participar más de una persona de la institución, agradeceríamos procurar la representatividad de los distintos grupos (género, etnia).

Fecha y lugar: 31 de Octubre - Salón Blanco de Casa de Gobierno - 25 de Mayo y Av. San Nicolás de Bari - La Rioja



Ministerio de Ambiente
y Desarrollo Sostenible
Argentina



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LA RIOJA



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FAVOR DE CONFIRMAR ASISTENCIA

3.1. Consultative Workshop - Tucumán

On October 27, 2023, the Public Consultation and Socialization Workshop of the project 'Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the drylands of northwestern Argentina in the face of climate change, improving access to water and the implementation of sustainable land management practices' was held in San Miguel de Tucumán.

The meeting was opened by the National Director of Planning and Environmental Land Management, Guido Veneziale and Dr. Pablo Viegas Aurelio on behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; the Director of Environment of the Ministry of Productive Development of the Province of Tucumán, Florencia Sayago; the Secretary of Environmental Land Management of Jujuy, Susana Amador; and the Director of Land Management of the Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment of Catamarca, Yamila Sobh.

Following the presentation of the project by Miguel Guzmán of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and Jessica Viand (Global Factor), a participatory work session was carried out based on the organization of four working groups that discussed the identification of the opportunities and challenges of implementing the project, the strategies being executed, and the relevant actors to be considered. The criteria for the formation of the working groups were that they should be heterogeneously integrated. In other words, different actors, and institutions, organizations, and gender, taking into account in each group an office of the State, an NGO, etc.

Finally, a plenary session was held in which each working group shared its contributions through a presentation by a representative. These contributions will be detailed in the following section entitled '3.1.2 Workshop results – Tucumán'.

3.1.1. Participants

- Natalia Alarcón. Group of Rural Students FFYL UNT 25 years.
- María Alina Sveruga APN Aconquija 43 years old.
- René Calpachay Pueblos Originales Jujuy Belongs to Atacama people 61 years old
- Liliana Guitian Fundación Runas Salta 48 years old.
- Mirian Collantes INGEMA UNT 66 years old.
- Federico Diblasi HRD Tucumán 34 years old
- María Yamila Sobh SMA Catamarca 45 years old.
- Silvia Politi of the Observatory of Urban and Territorial Phenomena of FAU UNT 54 years old
- Silvina Mendila SEMA Tucumán 58 years old
- Pablo Waisman APN Aconquija 46
- Marina Mamani Unión de Pueblos de la Nación Diaguita Tucumán. She has belonged to the Diaguita people for 57 years.
- Darío Jara SMA of the Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment Catamarca 47 years old
- Rubén Daza SEPopular Jujuy. 68 years old
- Carina Rodríguez APN Los Pozuelos Jujuy 40 years old.
- Diego Bravo Wurschmidt DRH Tucumán 35 years old.
- Pamela Cortez Rural Studies FFYL GERTUC 27 years old.
- Gustavo Carello ISES CONICET UNT 53 years old
- Nicolas Pereyra APN Jujuy 25 years old.
- Esteban C Carvajal UPNDT Belongs to the Diaguita community El Mollar 38 years old.
- Luis Mendaña Fundación Runas Salta 60 years old
- Susana Amador MdeA y CC Jujuy 59 years old.
- Lucia Rivadaneira SEMA Tucumán 33 years old
- Alejandro Gomez SEOP Tucumán 45 years old
- Ana S. Melendez UNCA CONICET 40 years

- Claudia Funes INTA Tucuman 42 years old
- Ramiro Araoz APN El Rey Salta
- Florencia Puebla MAgCC Jujuy 34 years old
- Pablo Viegas MAgDS Nation 48 years old
- Victor Dipasquale SMA Catamarca 48 years old
- Mercedes Velardez MAgDS Nación Belongs to the Diaguita people 50 years.

3.1.2. Workshop results - Tucumán

A. Working Group No. 1

Project implementation opportunities:

The vision is that the legal framework with laws such as the goat, sheep and “Ordenamiento Territorial de Bosque Nativo” (OTBN) laws is very good, but there are bureaucracies that make it difficult to lower the project's financing. There is a need for interdisciplinary work that is in a somewhat undeveloped state in the area, and at a global level, there is need to study the analysis of the carbon footprint of local products in order to enter international markets. Further, there is more work needed to increase the number of certifications of products made at origin, such as work in the area that is being completed on LAR cheese.

Challenges in project implementation:

Because the communities need to be further strengthened, and to pacify an issue that brings conflict, it is important to work on land tenure and ownership. Additionally, it is important to maintain the flow of income in the villages to ensure that the projects are successful and that there is no loss of population. It was noted that cattle ranching is not incorporated into the project, but it is a resource for communities. There is little technical and legal capacity, and if there is, it is not well directed. Communication is weak between institutions working in the same territory, resulting in dispersed efforts.

Complementary strategies:

There are projects linked to APN for the recovery of the Argentine landscape and livelihoods (PROFOSI, PADAS), and accompaniment of entrepreneurs in tourism, weaving, livestock, and camelids in Jujuy.

Relevant players to add:

- INAI
- INTA
- SENASA (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria)
- APN
- INAFCI (National Institute of Family, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture)
- Indigenous communities should all participate, however, not all groups are represented.
- Provincial and National Ministries of the Environment
- Provincial and National Ministries of the Interior, representatives of different local administrations
- Private sector
- Universities
- NGOs
- Provincial water entities

B. Working Group No. 2

Project implementation opportunities:

They proposed to identify some opportunities that have complex dimensions: climate change adaptation plans, land mitigation and access to water. Emphasis was placed on a line for improving access to water and it was identified that in the Puna sector, co-administration of the territory is a necessity. Each of the provinces has a different degree of administration. In Catamarca there is support for cultural practices with integral management of water resources with works that can be continued in this area.

In addition, the importance of the native peoples linked to more fragile territories, mainly dry territories, was recognized in order to continue working on the recognition of ancestral rights. The revaluation of the figure of the indigenous rural farmer is an opportunity for the revaluation of practices and ancestral culture. It is known that after colonization processes there were changes in land use that have gone against the sustainability of the territories, generating degradation and loss of productivity. For example, in Pinchao there are terraced systems with very well exploited slopes. On the other hand, in the Zasos there are long steep slopes that end up generating conflicts and loss of natural resources.

Challenges in project implementation:

A lack of regulation for irrigation or installation of wells and hydraulic works was identified. Despite the existence of tools such as roundtables for handing over land in commodatum, the process is complex. In addition, there are limited financial resources related to natural resource management. The need for water resources for production systems was recognized, considering the impact of climate change. Finally, there is a need for capacity building in water resource management at the sectoral level, the management of technologies and hydraulic systems, and international rights.

Complementary strategies:

- Land Management Program (POT) of the Calchaquí Valley and similar water plans.
- Provincial Action Plan (P.A.P.). Formulation Plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- The Land Regularization and Allocation Program for the Aboriginal Population of Jujuy (PRAT- PAJ)
- National Program for Social Inclusion in Rural Areas (PISEAR).
- MST 2019
- Agro XXI.
- PROCANOR (Programa de Inserción Económica de los Productores Familiares del Norte Argentino). It is expected soon a PROCANOR in valleys in Tucumán.
- In Catamarca, there is support for cultural practices with integral management of water resources with works that can continue in this area.

Relevant actors to add:

- Local communities
- Civil society organizations
- Governments at different levels: national, provincial, municipal, communal
- Neighborhood centers working in different rural areas
- Research centers
- Universities and other local and national institutes
- International actors.

C. Working Group No. 3

Project implementation opportunities:

The need to establish horizontal and vertical multilevel governance was indicated. Likewise, the importance of involving stakeholders in decisions, reproducing the bottom-up logic of thoughts, resolutions, and knowing the perspective of indigenous peoples.

Challenges in project implementation:

Limitations in land ownership for native communities (despite titling of community lands), that is exacerbated by private actors who participate directly and indirectly in the conflicts.

Equal access to water for all, the resource exists as abundant in some places and scarce in others, access to healthy and pure water is essential in mitigating climate change (protection of water basins, local and regional). The issue is worsened as territory is fragmented in provinces, communes, and municipalities. This is because each sector is having its own management. It was agreed that water management must be led from a basin from the watersheds, with sufficient economic resources and skills development to complete studies. A lack of skills in the area is a real challenge. The importance of the participation of communities and sectors to implement adequate measures for water resource management was also identified. In addition, there has been excessive, unplanned, and unconsulted real estate growth. The sectors have had difficulties with access, and this has been evidenced by migration.

Complementary strategies:

It was indicated that other factors to consider in project planning, in addition to water resource management, include biodiversity and the population's ancestral knowledge of sustainable resource management.

In the Upper Calchaquí Valley there are small water works to access drinking water and roofs for water collection with some reservoirs such as tanks or ponds. In addition, in Puna there are also water harvesting facilities with solar energy pumping where there is access to electricity. It was indicated that there are experiences with ram pumps to make water drinkable for irrigation and production, taking advantage of the slopes of the geographical location and the mountain relief. They indicated that these practices avoid environmental contamination and improve access to water. On the other hand, they indicated that in Puna they have drip irrigation practices. However, they indicated that it is important to provide maintenance. Regarding water training systems, it was indicated that groups or consortiums are in charge of water management. However, there is no socialization process for small producers or new producers on water management and access to water. For this reason, the need for cross-cutting management to prevent migration and enable production strategies for a diversity of actors in different producers was indicated.

Relevant actors to add:

- International actors that support processes
- National and provincial governments
- Civil society organizations
- Universities
- Indigenous technicians.
- INTA
- Social movements such as union of land workers (UTT), and agrarian movements

D. Working Group No. 4

Opportunities and challenges in project implementation:

The NOA is a heterogeneous area, and it is a challenge how to approach and work in those places. However, it is also an opportunity due to a wealth of ancestral and traditional knowledge that speaks to the historical development of the entire NOA at regional level. This knowledge provides the tool to guide climate change adaptation.

Among the opportunities identified was joint planning, which would make it possible to cover the different sectors and would not be a vertical issue. The challenge lies in how to establish this multisectoral interaction and in getting civil society more involved. They indicated the importance of citizen participation, the approach to heterogeneous situations, and the articulation between actors. In this connection, they explained that they consider it important to raise awareness and joint planning based on traditional and ancestral knowledge.

On the other hand, they indicated that studies need to be incorporated into plans and projects. They indicated that studies are available, however, there is no articulation between academia and the sectors.

Complementary strategies:

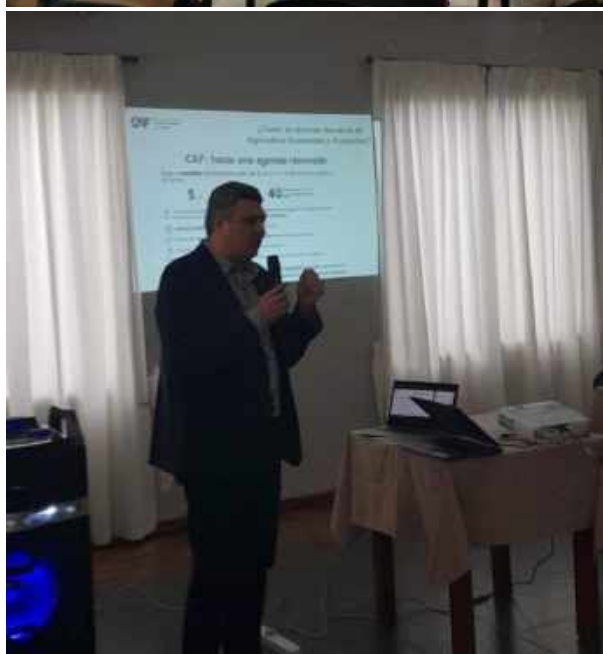
Possible projects were mentioned in operation around the NOA.

Relevant actors to add:

- Organizations
- State in all its dimensions
- Civil society, groups
- Universities

3.1.3. Photographic evidence









3.2. Consultative workshop - La Rioja

On October 31, 2023, the second Workshop for Public Consultation and Socialization of the project was held in the White Room of the Government House of the Province of La Rioja. The workshop was opened by the National Director of Planning and Environmental Management for the Territory, Guido Veneziale; the Minister of Production and Environment of La Rioja, Fernando Rejal; the Secretary of Environment of La Rioja, Santiago Azulay; and the President of the Institute of Planning and Environmental Services, Cristian Albrecht. After the words of welcome and explanation of the workshop program by the Secretary of Environment of La Rioja, Margarita Suarez and Dr. Pablo Viegas Aurelio of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the presentation of the project and its components was made by Jesica Viand of Global Factor Consulting.

After a brief coffee break, representatives of territorial organizations of *Mapuche* and *Huarpe* communities from the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan presented the *Kume Matru* enterprise, a product of the previous MST NOA-Cuyo Project, which is a collective brand that markets goat meat. Three heterogeneous working groups were formed to work on the challenges and benefits, as well as the current strategies that could be articulated with the implementation of the project and the relevant actors to incorporate. Finally, a plenary session was held in which each working group shared its contributions through a presentation by a representative. These contributions will be detailed in the following section.

3.2.1. Participants

National/regional authorities

- INTA (Scientific/technical):
- INTA San Luis Villa Mercedes Hugo Bernasconil
- INTA La Consulta Mendoza Jorge Valdez
- INTA San Juan Mónica Ruiz
- Regional Center INTA Mza-San Juan Claudio Galmarini
- Universities/CONICET (Scientific/Technical):
- Universidad Nacional de San Juan Rectorate Tadeo Berenguer
- National University of Cuyo Rectorate Esther Sanchez
- National University of Cuyo Faculty of Agricultural Sciences María Flavia Filippini
- National University of San Luis Rector's Office Víctor Moriñigo
- CONICET IADIZA (Mendoza) Claudia Campos
- Director CCT Mendoza Fidel Roig

Provincial authorities

- San Luis Secretariat of Environment. Coordinator of the Secretariat of Environment Soledad Sallenave.
- San Luis Coordinación Ministerial Coordination Ministry of Social Development
- San Luis Institutional Relations Secretariat of International Relations and Worship
- San Luis Secretary of State for Women, Diversity and Equality Mariana Carla Urteaga
- San Juan director Observatorio Ambiental San Juan Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development Bruno German Grillo Malberti
- San Juan director Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development Dardo Recabarren
- San Juan Directorate of Women, Gender, and Diversity Adriana Ginestar
- Mendoza Director of Renewable Natural Resources Secretariat of Environment and Territorial Planning Sebastián Melchor
- Mendoza Directorate of Gender and Diversity Belén Bobba

Civil society organizations:

- Cuyo. Wetlands International LAC Fundación Humedales Coordinator Program Coordinator Conserving High Andean Wetlands for People and Nature Román J. Baigún

Organizations and actors that effectively participated:

Provincial authorities

- Secretary of Environment of LR (sec. Santiago Azul and ss Margariza Suarez)
- Ministry of Production and Environment. Minister Fernando Rejal.
- Planning and Environmental Services Institute. Cristian Albrecht
- Secretariat for Indigenous Peoples LR Mariela Tulian (Comechingón community of San Marcos Sierras)
- Institute of Social Responsibility (Gisela Gaetan Torres, Roxana Quinteros, Ruben Romero, Brisa Oliva, Franco Scaglioni)
- Undersecretary of Liaison for Land Management and Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Water and Energy
- Community Relations Secretariat
- Regional Institute of Planning, Control and Environmental Services
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Livestock
- Acción Verde (Green Action)

National/Regional

- CRILAR-CONICET
- INTA Mendoza, San Luis, La Rioja
- INAFCI (Marcelo Amaya)

Civil society organizations:

- Community Diaguaita Olongasta LR
- Community Diaguaita Millicay LR
- Community Mapuche Malargüeche MZA
- Community Huarpe Pinkantas San Juan
- Community Huarpe San Juan
- Fundación Humedales (Wetlands International)
- EISA Foundation (Socio-Environmental Study and Intervention) Mendoza

3.2.2. Results of workshop work - La Rioja

A. Working Group No. 1

Project implementation opportunities:

In relation to component 1, which is the improvement of water use, it was said that it is an opportunity to expand, develop and recover knowledge of water catchment, retention, and conduction. Regarding Component 2, which is the strengthening and development phase of the new project, it was said there was an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge between ancestral knowledge and its reconfiguration with more recent developments in climate change and scientific production. The importance of the financing the production and validation of this knowledge. Finally, regarding component 3, which is the addition of local value, it was explained that there are products with high cultural and nutritional values, etc. An opportunity within the framework of the project is to develop better communication of the products, and better dissemination of the results of the program.

Challenges in project implementation:

Regarding component 2, it was explained the importance of the recovery of traditional knowledge for environmental restoration, to assemble it with scientific knowledge, and make legal and accounting advice viable for the organizations closer to the territory. This change allows the problem of land ownership to be addressed at a local level and helps avoid having to travel to a larger city to resolve disputes or confirm documentation (helping with land and water management. In Mendoza, when talking about quotas, one must be the owner of the territory to be able to be an irrigator, whilst the native communities have another system that is not officially recognized to ask for a water quota.

Regarding component 1 there is a limitation for intensity of use of aquifer water in the different provinces for agriculture and in the cities. Much of the anthropic use of aquifers, leading to overexploitation. This is worsened by a lack of technical capacity in the area.

In relation to component 3, it is possible to generate guidelines and criteria for certifications such as sustainable, environmentally friendly, or organic. It is also necessary to have adequate guidelines and criteria that perhaps the certifications do not have, alongside accompaniment to achieve certifications.

Complementary strategies:

- In Component 3, there are national and provincial programs of the Ministries of Social Development that occasionally have certification programs.
- External financing (related to this Corporate Social Responsibility, Corporate Foundations) and other resources such as embassies of other countries, donors that are not dependent on the national state, but have interest in contributing to the development of communities.
- INTA's project portfolio.
- Clean/renewable energy is PERMER, some municipalities have a program.
- In La Rioja, the Secretariat of Agriculture has revolving funds for irrigation infrastructure linked to more alternative energy such as solar pumps. The aim is to make irrigation in the areas more technologically advanced to ensure better management of the resource. As part of the project it is also being explored that these systems are to be powered by alternative energies such as gravity and solar panels, such an approach is feasible given that there are many vertical differences, allowing for a situation where a small generator is all that is required to supply for the demand.

- Advancing technology in the field also contains an element that could reduce migration from the area. There are aged communities in some of the pumps, which have a sensor in troughs that cut and give water again by themselves.
- Program of the provinces in control of invasive exotic species (for example, in wetlands the program intends to control tamarind and rosehip).

Relevant actors to add:

- INA (National Water Institute).
- Provincial water authorities
- All local community stakeholders (livestock producers, farmers and their organizations, users, cooperatives, water consortiums).
- Science and technical institutions.
- Territorial institutions of the Municipality, INTA, INAFCI.
- Tourism sector, in terms of water use and boosting the economy in the territory. In La Rioja, a basin was used to decant sediments and clean water was used for irrigation. At the same time, it was exploited to develop tourism in that area (bathing), this led the whole distribution system to be cut off. This caused a big problem for the producers whose farms began to fill with sediment. Stakeholders commented on the risk of tourism overflow, identifying the example of Tilcara as a small town where they are unable to have the services they had before the arrival of tourism.
- In Component 3, which is the addition of local value: SENASA, SENAF, the clusters, productive institutions in general and the environmental secretariats of the provinces.

B. Working Group No. 2

Project implementation opportunities:

To visualize and revalue traditional knowledge and, as the first group said, to link it with scientific knowledge.

Preserve the customs and traditions of the communities that are being lost as a result of the process of rooting of populations whose communities are now aging, and it is necessary to recover ancestral technologies.

Encourage intersectoral dialogue. It is necessary to start a dialogue between the sectors to be able to take the scientific and technological aspects linked to traditional knowledge to public policies, otherwise everything remains fragmented and not much is achieved.

Recognize the main difficulties for territorial development (particularly in relation to water) and to generate sources of financing alongside technical assistance that will enable those who are currently in rural areas to persist and move forward. For example, during the pandemic, it was made apparent to that if there had not been the local supply people in the community would have died of starvation.

Challenges in project implementation:

Incorporation and adaptation of new technologies to the socioeconomic reality. There are several technologies, such as drip irrigation, solar pumps, etc. but these are inaccessible for eighty percent (80%) of family economic producers. A real adaptation and incorporation has to be made in order to change the technology, including the making available of subsidies for development in the area. Consolidated governance is essential for this change, with state policies where there is no opposition to the measures (that allow under standards and formalization to advance in certification, etc.).

Formalization of organizations in the territory. Organizations lack the resources to be formalized. This in turn makes it impossible to access credit, which in turn makes it impossible to access technologies. A vicious circle is generated.

Public-private articulation.

Complementary strategies:

- Potentiate projects for development that have state support in the province of San Luis.
- San Juan's experience is to diversify production strategies to take off from the market and add value and stop being primary producers.

- Hydroponic forage experience very relevant to the area.
- Community relations fairs
- *Blockchain* with handcrafted products

Relevant actors to add:

- Ministry of Education
- Women's Secretariat
- Universities
- Land Secretariat
- Culture and Tourism. Sustainable tourism could help reduce negative effects. TRC in Los Colorados formed a cooperative which made the development of further projects possible, such as nurseries to make carob trees, cosmetics made from *jarilla*, and fertilizer from goat guano. There are a lot of local production projects with INTA, such as family agriculture that allows other actors can join in. In San Luis, the community of La Tranca was linked to the Parque de las Quijadas and with their small production they organized themselves to supply tourism, after being incipient they overcame it and now they are calling other communities to join them with the production of weavings, carob flour, and seasonal agricultural produce. Change from the joint work that sustains tourism and starts from the production of their communities. Tourism and cultures are generating tourism routes that should be linked to local production, favoring and breaking chains with intermediaries for artisanal products.
- Community relations
- Office of the Chief of Staff
- Representatives of different community organizations.

C. Working Group No. 3

Opportunities and challenges in project implementation:

The challenges raised questions to seek an opportunity for the identified limitations:

- Identify, strengthen and expand and then articulate pilot experiences among sustainable productive communities (local communities, indigenous peoples, small producers, SMEs and larger companies) so that they can have a lasting beneficial impact for future generations of people in the area. It is important that the people from the local area have work, and that the available jobs persist for the foreseeable future.
- Develop systems of communication and production that allow the sharing of new technologies between individual stakeholder groups within the community.
- Maintaining a sense of community is important to maintain ancestral knowledge of land and water management practices.

Relevant players to add:

- Local communities
- Indigenous peoples
- Small producers
- SMEs, and companies. Determine which companies are working on SDGs and publicize those that belong to the Global Compact. Some of them are not part of the Global Compact, but it can publicize cooperatives that have started certain related practices, such as recycling.

Complementary strategies:

There are national and provincial laws, OTBN and Land Management laws. These are important in advancing the regularization of land tenure. The provincial law No. 10,963 of territorial survey of the province of La Rioja is in support of these articulations, however, and it is essential to ensure communication of changes in the local laws and regulations as not all producers know about them.

From the organization of native peoples of Mendoza and San Juan (who presented before the group session of the workshop, the project *Kume Matru* Andean goat was carried out as part of the previous project MST Noa Cuyo), the idea was raised of sustainable productive communities to be a large scale community project that would help in policy development.

From a representative group of family agriculture, it was commented that in a previous project from Los Colorados to Michigasta (La Rioja) they were involved in the reproduction of native plants in Mendoza (INAFCI).

Additionally, to prevent further migration away from the area, and a loss of ancestral family lands, development is needed in the local school systems to improve education and encourage young families to remain in the area.

In rural families, it is common that one son stays in the countryside, taking care of the livestock and the territory, while another one leaves to find work as a miner or trader in Abra Pampa (Jujuy), taking his children with him. The subsequent loss of children from the area has led to the closure of many schools in the Puna.

The issue is not only for people to stay in the countryside, but also to give sustainability to the families. It is essential to provide equal opportunities to young people living in the cities and those living in the countryside, and this goes hand in hand with education and transportation, the need for governance and a formulated government plan. Attempting only small-scale localized measures is unlikely to be successful, any related projects must be completed at the community level, to the level of expectation. This is essential for maintaining and improving the quality of life for local people.

There are many variables to consider from a holistic point of view, and for a project to be successful it must tie together improvements in services alongside diversifying locally produced products

3.2.3. Photographic evidence







4. Systematization of the consultation process: Virtual interviews

In addition to the face-to-face workshops (detailed above), the consultation and socialization process included virtual interviews to broaden the participation of stakeholders. Thus, during the planning stage of this consultative process, a mapping of key stakeholders for the project in the different topics related to the project (rural development, gender, diversity, indigenous peoples, climate change) was carried out, and a participation strategy was designed.

Given the time and the wide geographical scope of the project, a virtual modality was considered the most appropriate, through semi-structured interviews with organizations and institutions of national, provincial, and regional scope.

This process was conducted between October 23 and November 15, 2023. A total of thirteen (13) interviews were conducted, with the participation of twenty-five (25) women and twenty-five (25) men, fifty (50) people in total. It should also be noted that more than seventy (70) e-mails were sent, inviting participants to the virtual interviews.

The notification of interviews was sent to the institutional and personal email addresses of the people who are part of these institutions. The purpose of these e-mails was to involve key participants in the process of consultation and socialization of the project. This was vital in understanding the initial opinions of stakeholders, an understanding that will be used to guide and provide feedback for the design of the rest of the project, as well as to put the project's objectives into practice.

A process of communication and dissemination of information that promotes inclusive participation of stakeholders throughout the project cycle is essential. In addition, a brief presentation of the project was shared so that stakeholders could develop an understanding of its guidelines and scope and facilitate constructive exchange during the interview process.

Objectives:

- Ensure early, timely, and inclusive participation of the stakeholders identified for this project from its preparation stage.
- Comply with the procedures and requirements established by the environmental, social, and gender policies of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.

Methodology:

In preparation for the consultation instruments, the consulting team, following documentary analysis and prior meetings with the MAYDS team, developed a matrix of guiding questions to serve as a guide for the exchange and feedback process in the early stages of this project's preparation.

Interview sheet (1 per institution interviewed)		
Interview No.		
Name of the institution		
Participants (name, mail, phone)		
Geographical location		
Aspects	Guiding questions	Responses
Are you aware of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras of Northwest Argentina-UNDP"? (2010-2019)	What is your opinion about the project?	
Opportunities	What could be the role of your institution in the project?	
Challenges	What could be the difficulties of implementation of the project?	
Actors	What are the stakeholders you would include in this project? What are the places in the region where you would suggest applying this project?	
Activities and/or complementary projects	What are the stakeholders you would include in this project? What are the potential environmental and social impacts of implementation?	

Genre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What role does the promotion of gender equity play in your institution? 2. Are you aware of any studies that have been conducted on gender and climate change? Climate change, differentiated impacts and their repercussions on time use, gender-based violence, in your ecoregion/community? 3. Do you consider that there are other relevant actors to be convened in future instances of participation (pay special attention to detect organizations/referents of vulnerable groups). 4. In your region/community, what role do men, women and youth assume with respect to access, use and control of natural resources and biodiversity? 5. What is the participation of women, youth or other vulnerable groups in the management bodies and committees related to the environment? 	
Conclusion/additional comments		

Organizations invited to participate:

The gender, diversity, and intercultural organizations that participated were the following:

1. [Rural Women's Network](#)
2. [National Institute of Indigenous Affairs \(INAI\)](#)
3. [Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity of the Nation](#)
4. Secretariat of Women, Gender, and Diversity -Ministry of Government, Human Rights and Labor of the Province of Salta
5. Secretary of State for Women, Gender, and Diversity (Ministry of Social Development) of the province of Tucumán.
6. Secretariat of Women, Genders, and Diversity of the Province of Catamarca
7. Secretary of State for Women, Diversity and Equality of St. Louis
8. Directorate of Women, Gender, and Diversity of San Juan

Gender, diversity, and intercultural organizations that effectively participated were the following:

9. [Rural Women's Network](#)
 - 9.1. Gran Chaco Foundation
 - 9.2. The Future is on the Mount
 - 9.3. Marianne and Irradia Association.
10. [National Institute of Indigenous Affairs \(INAI\)](#)
 - 10.1. Directorate for the Development of Indigenous Communities. NOA and Northeastern (NEA) Coordination
 - 10.2. Work teams of the province of Catamarca (NOA)
 - 10.3. Work teams from the provinces of Salta and Jujuy (NOA)
 - 10.4. Work teams from the provinces of San Juan and Mendoza (Cuyo)

4.1. Interviews 1 - National Observatory on Land Degradation and Desertification (ONDTyD)

Participants:

- Almut Therburg-ONDTyD Coordinator
- Pablo Lizana-Coordination of ONDTyD
- Vanina Petraglia- MAyDS Nación and part of the Observatory.

Located in Mendoza

4.1.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD" (years 2010- 2019):

The opinion is that participation was not very open or inclusive, interviewees stated that they did not participate as in other projects. For this reason, they ask that the mistakes of this previous project not be repeated.

B. Project implementation opportunities:

The ONDTyD could be a network that has many links in the territory with universities, CONICET. Sites that are not currently part of the pilot sites of the Observatory could be incorporated, so it could be expanded in the future.

C. Challenges for project implementation:

There must be explicit agreements on the responsibility of roles in the document, as well as agreements on the implementation of practices, with procedures for endorsement. Revision of methodological protocols for consensus.

The positive experience from the Readiness Green Climate Fund Project (Patagonia) is noteworthy, where the work style is characterized by horizontal collaboration among professionals and a participatory approach at the local level.

Some provinces express interest in engaging with the consultations, while others may not, as they retain control over their territories. If a network is formed, it is more likely that technical progress will be made.

D. Relevant actors to add:

The possibility of contacting the pilot sites directly was discussed.

E. Complementary activities or projects:

They are engaging with communities, not only on land management, but also on working together. They have conducted surveys and interviews to analyze local perceptions, and workshops and participatory maps to understand how residents use the land and their access to the market. It would be useful to have a fund for water dedicated for human use.

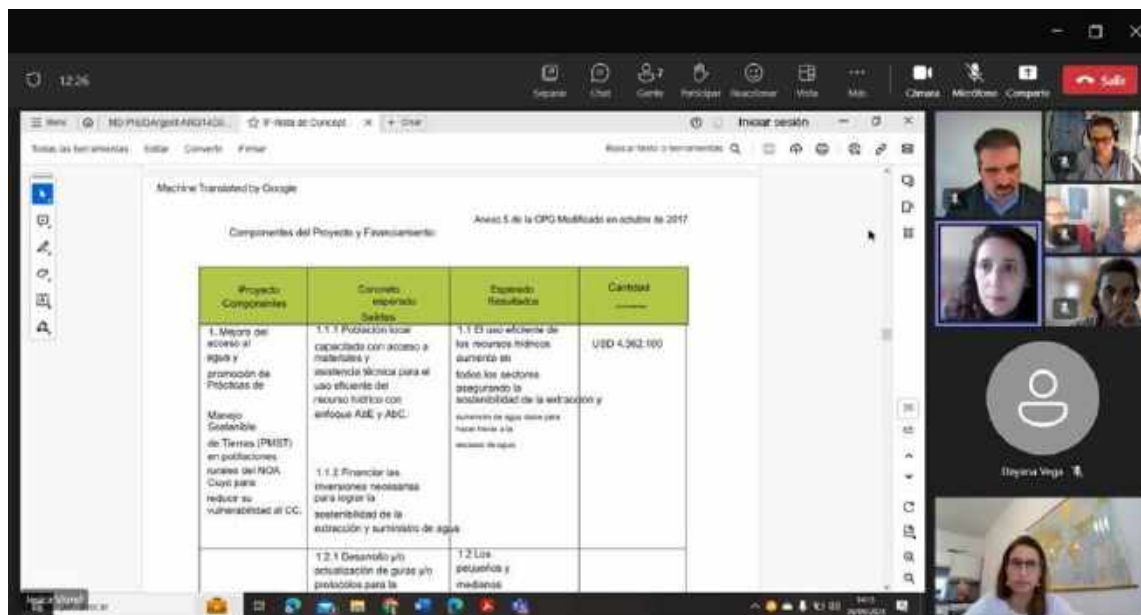
F. Genre:

No issues related to this topic have been specified.

4.1.2. Conclusions and agreements

The ONDTyD's added value is its comprehensive approach.

4.1.3. Photographic evidence



4.2. Interview 2- Provincial authorities

Participants:

- Jujuy. Rubén Daza. Secretariat of Popular Economy. Ministry of Economic Development and Production.
- Jujuy. Pablo Palomares. Secretary of International Relations
- Jujuy. Agustina Berayra. International Relations Secretary
- Tucumán. Federico Diblassi. Ministry of Production and Environment. Agronomist Engineer, Calchaquí Valleys Area.
- Tucumán. Rodrigo Ordoñez. Ministry of Productive Development. Undersecretary of Territorial Management of Native Forests (Direction of Flora, Wildlife and Soil).
- Catamarca. Carlos Barrionuevo. Director of Environmental Management. Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment.
- Catamarca. Ivana Veliz. Provincial Directorate of Biodiversity. Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment.
- Catamarca. Darío Jara. Head of the Water Basins and Climate Department. Secretary of Environment. Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment.
- Catamarca. José Antonio Villagran. Provincial Directorate of Native Forests. Secretary of Environment. Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment.
- Catamarca. Hugo Gomez Perez. Provincial Directorate of Native Forests. Secretary of Environment. Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment.
- Catamarca. Marina Agüero. Provincial Directorate of Native Forests. Secretary of Environment. Ministry of Water, Energy and Environment.

4.2.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the previous project: "MST *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD*" (year: 2010- 2019):

Regarding the previous project, there are questions about the eligibility criteria, particularly if the same aspects as those in the previous project are currently being addressed. If so, they have recognized that many tangible components, such as; works, technological incorporation, drilling, irrigation canals, channeled irrigation, work with drones, and added value, have been successfully implemented.

B. Project implementation opportunities:

Revolving fund measures currently operate with limited funds. Urban microloans, offered at an advantageous rate of 6% per year, amount to 400,000 pesos, with 20 loans available today. These loans are designed to reward individuals who have completed a training process as managers and facilitators in the territory. It's important to note that these funds are managed by institutions, not the Secretariat. It would be good for them to strengthen the funds (SEP Jujuy).

C. Challenges in project implementation:

There is concern that the project should not be focused only for training, and research (with the dissemination of results in publications) but that it should involve all parties; however, territorial presence is needed. While financing is a possibility, there is an identified gap (SEP Jujuy).

In terms of financing, how are the funds going to be executed, what will be the role of the provincial states or municipalities and what will the provinces be participating in (SRI Jujuy). Additionally, concerns have been raised about the potential difficulty in resource utilization, emphasizing the absence of a component that addresses the technical and administrative aspects of resource management (SA Tucumán).

D. Relevant actors to add:

There is an inquiry regarding whether the funds are intended for civil associations rather than provincial governments. The suggestion is to consider implementation through associations with existing experience, as recommended by Tucumán. This recommendation is based on the recognition of Proyungas' successful operation in the territory (Jujuy).

E. Complementary activities or projects:

Family Agriculture (SEP Jujuy): They operate in an integrated manner, encompassing both urban and rural areas, with a commitment to creating a sustainable territory. Their approach involves adding value to work, training, financing, and design, while emphasizing the strengthening of the socio-productive fabric. Collective efforts among producers are rewarded, with a focus on environmental conservation. Engaging with social leaders, they actively collect plastic from 30 neighborhoods during weekly meetings, a practice distinct from some international projects. Operating in a decentralized manner, they contribute to the strengthening of over 70 institutions. Notably, they have implemented an Agroecology program based on *bocachi*, ceasing the use of chemicals in collaboration with Cooperativa Itatí, UTT, and INTA. However, all these initiatives are currently financed by the province. They operate a Technological Linking Unit that collaborates on studies with the Technical School of Maimará. All livestock systems adhere to silvopastoral practices. Despite these achievements, obtaining organic certification remains a challenge due to a lack of consistent support from individuals permanently situated in the territory. The cooperatives are hesitant to involve universities, citing occasional use. I am involved in the cultivation of *chilto* tomatoes in San Francisco.

F. Genre:

No issues related to this topic have been specified.

4.2.2. Conclusions and agreements

It has been proposed that the percentages per province and governance mechanisms that involve the provinces in the decision-making process for project execution, are established.

4.2.3. Photographic evidence



4.3. Interview 3 - National universities in the NOA

Name of the institutions:

- National University of Jujuy (UNJu). Faculty of Agronomy (Scientific/technical) Ecosystem Services
- National University of Jujuy (UNJu). Secretariat of Science and Technology of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences.
- National University of Jujuy . Faculty of Agronomy. Soil and Water Management
- Institute of High-Altitude Biology (INBIAL) UNJu CONICET
- Institute of Andean Ecoregions EU (INECOA) CONICET

Participants (Located in Jujuy):

- Raquel Romeo
- Claudia Beatriz Gallardo
- Gabriela Fernandez
- Laura Diez Yarade
- Liliana Lupo
- María Inés Zamar

4.3.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD" (year: 2010- 2019):

Experience in the combating desertification and wildfires was focused on the nodes addressing the issues specific to each province. After sharing insights, similar challenges emerged. However, approaching this with the province and all stakeholders enhances the diagnostic process, facilitating the sustainability, progression, and continuity of the intended program. A more focused approach to the issue prevents activity overlap and promotes integration from workshop work at provincial nodes. In contrast, if activities are not integrated, INTA might pursue one aspect while the Faculty focuses on another, potentially leading to a better utilization of resources and activities. This is what happened in the previous project between INTA, the University, other organizations, and native communities. This corresponds to the Provincial Action Plan aimed at combating land desertification in Jujuy, developed by the MST Project (MST nodes did not align with the observatory points). It would not be advisable to rely just on observatory points or the platform; utilizing only one approach would limit the coverage. It is essential to broaden the perspective to bound more aspects. We have a Department of Soils, Climate, and Ecology, as well as a Department of Climatology at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the National University of Jujuy.

B. Project implementation opportunities:

1. Line in Botany.
2. Interdisciplinary plant studies in soils.
3. Geo-ecological studies in central Andes and NOA highlands.
4. Research in CONICET member of the career (CIC) and directs the INECHO, double dependence CONICET UNJu.

At the institute, numerous projects are aligned with the objectives of this proposal. UNJu expertise lies in climate and landscape reconstruction, crossing from the Tardi glacial period to the present Anthropocene era, particularly in archaeological human contexts that are rich in the NOA region. UNJu investigations delve into landscape transformations and changes in plant community compositions, utilizing studies of pollen, sediments, and other bioindicators extracted from lake deposits, lagoons, and high-altitude vegas. This interdisciplinary focus is essential due to the nature of our approach. Through Transfer projects, we engage in research related to the botanical and geographical characterization of honeys. Collaborating with INTA, we aim to enhance the value of products such as honey and its derivatives. UNJu work extends beyond beekeepers, including local communities. UNJu explores ethnobiological knowledge, including the utilization of wild bees in the region, such as the *meliponas*, and their significance to local communities. UNJu involvement in various spin-offs showcases their commitment to the region, where UNJu've been actively contributing for the past 15 years with a dedicated team of young professionals. UNJu are well-equipped to contribute to Components 3 and 4 with our experienced team, led by Liliana Lupo.

C. Challenges in project implementation:

The integration of the scientific-technical and academic sector in the project with cross-cutting lines of work, which allow adding the experience of the research institutes in the implementation of practices in the territory.

D. Relevant actors to add:

The formal integration of INTA and CONICET. The central focus lies on the community itself, prompting the exploration of methods to initiate a participatory diagnosis project. Drawing from Research and Development Institute for Small Family Farming (IPAF) NOA and INTA, Juan Pablo Zamora, specializing in water collection and shallow wells, brings forth valuable material from Puna and quebrada, along with substantial work and experience to contribute to the future. INECHO has four large-scale projects linked to INTAs, one of which is the SITES project focusing on the efficient use of water resources in quebrada and Puna. This project was presented in collaboration with IPAF and members of INECHO, INDyA (Institute of Dating and Archaeometry of CONICET - Province of Jujuy - UNT - UNJu), as well as someone from the Executing Unit in Regional Social Sciences and Humanities (UE CISOR), who are actively involved in a National Program for the formation of new centers under the CONICET INTA Project. UNJu are engaged in interdisciplinary collaboration, spanning teaching activities at INTA and CONICET. There is potential to

explore further connections aligned with the Axis of the improvement of water projects within the 'ImpaCT.AR Science and Technology' program. In total, there are four projects available, all linked to specific working groups.

E. Complementary activities or projects:

- Entomology. In relation to problems of agricultural crops and wild vegetation in interaction with insects. Interaction of some insects with flora. In the crops of the Prepuna, Puna, and low valleys of Jujuy.
- Ecodaptation. Contamination and salinization problems Soil management and irrigation. Pollution in the Puna zone and temperate valleys salinization. As an extensionist at INTA Perico, Laura Diez Yarade collaborated on the Jujuy Model Forest EcoAdapt Project with farmers in the pongo (temperate valley), focusing on improving water conduction. She also addressed gender issues, aiming to enhance the visibility and empowerment of women farmers who play crucial roles in family farming. The goal was to recognize and value their contributions both within the household and in the field.
- Soil research. Women's association. INTA Family Agriculture, sustainability. Monitoring.
- As part of the Soil and Irrigation Management Chair, UNJu focus on research projects related to sustainable soil management. Gabriela Fernández is associated with the Argentine Soil Science Association and currently preside over the Commission on Education and Public Awareness. Our work includes projects, including children's books, available on the educ.AR platform. Within INTA, I actively participate in Family Farming projects as part of the management team, contributing to sustainability initiatives. Sustainable intensification is currently a prominent focus. Collaborating within the Production Monitoring Network and working jointly with UNJu Faculty and INTA enhances our efforts. Through fieldwork and accumulated experience, she aims to make valuable contributions.

F. Genre:

The gender issue is not taken as an objective of analysis, but UNJu interacts permanently with women working in agriculture. In the cases of family agriculture, the group of farmers that we work with, women play a predominant role. In one of the farms, the woman is the one who takes data on weather conditions and the application protocol, and she is the one who keeps the notebook. The men receive us and collaborate with information, but the woman takes all the data. This has happened in all the farms.

Raquel Romeo, who works in the line of Ethnobotany, is linked to women from the Puna who work making creams based on local medicinal plants. Adding value to medicinal plants through training in the elaboration of creams and soaps with their plants. This allows them to market some minimal products to improve their situation. It is not a big project, but with a small action.

4.3.2. Conclusions and agreements

Interdisciplinary work with different actors working in a network. Possibility of interacting with components 3 and 4 of the project (INECOA).

Proposal for a Social Consultation Workshop in Jujuy to ensure genuine participation from various sectors. UNJu recommends organizing the workshop by region and nodes, with common themes across all nodes, aiming to address asymmetries in the problems being tackled.

A satisfactory experience of a project from the Ministry of Science and Technology was that the mechanism is more executive and allows the coordinators having referents by nodes a different and more orderly dynamic to get there. The process involved workshops after integrating the nodes, document presentations, etc. Liliana mentioned the program Asymmetry in the Scientific System, which won a node in Jujuy and Salta. National PICT of the Ministry of Science and Technology addressed by nodes, in the universities, integrating all those who are in other areas where science is done, separated by region. The current approach is effective and evolving into a mapping or cartography initiative. The institutional framework emphasizes the importance of inclusivity, indicating that valuable contributors should not be excluded. This necessitates a review of the formal programs within INTA and CONICET. The aim is to achieve systematic organization, ensuring the project's overall solidity.

4.3.3. Photographic evidence



4.4. Interview 4 - INTA Cafayate

Participants:

- Diego Kalman
- Located in Cafayate (Calchaquíes Valleys, Salta).

4.4.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD" (year: 2010- 2019):

Yes, INTA specified that it was done only in the dry lands of the Calchaquí valleys; however, Tucumán was interested to know if it would cover the three provinces that make up the Calchaquí valleys or not (Salta, Catamarca, Tucumán).

B. Project implementation opportunities:

It is necessary to invest in building people's capacities, not so much to go and give talks only, as an example. Opportunity for greater water control. It is necessary to generate more knowledge among irrigators. The importance of irrigation consortiums. In Salta very little developed and accompanied.

In terms of land use, there is an breakthrough of viticulture, an expanding monoculture business agriculture that advances towards cheaper areas using subway water and exploring more fragile areas such as the foothills, taking part of the local vegetation with it. From the non-agricultural side, urbanization is another vector, urbanizations are made in the best soils. In the case of Tafí, which could be an ideal location for seed potatoes, it has unfortunately been lost as an agricultural valley. Because of urbanization, among other things, livestock activity was disarticulated because the urban stain left the slaughterhouse inside the city, so it became a clandestine slaughter of animals. The hectares destined to pasture have decreased, and the agricultural-livestock articulation is broken. That is why they have intensive agriculture. The Calchaquí region possesses good-quality water suitable for viticulture. However, the lower-quality water in the area is utilized for pastoral horticulture, including alfalfa and winter cereals, which poses challenges to the value chain. Historically, there were areas for animal fattening in the hills, but the absence of slaughterhouses has led to the dismantling of livestock farming, contributing to soil degradation. For instance, the cultivation of paprika, where producers could integrate goats, is affected. Notably, everything produced in the valleys is typically sold outside the local area, rather than being marketed locally. There is no meat industry. Diversification should be sought. There

could be synergy with enotourism (winer tourism) that should be combined with other activities, it would be an opportunity to articulate with diversification.

C. Challenges in project implementation:

The water issue is a priority. It is a political and administrative problem for water efficiency, beyond the fact that technology is always required. Projects usually finance technology, but anyone oversees regulation. As a result, the project's implementation fails.

In Cafayate there is a demographic explosion with an accelerated arrival of capital, it is very polarized since there are unrecognized indigenous communities and multinational companies. In Catamarca there is a symbolic impact in the water dispute due to the mining activity (from Alumbraera), tension in what is happening in the Puna and may continue to happen with the provision of water for all uses, not only agricultural. With different levels of concern, the climate is a general topic of discussion among the population. In Santa María it is something that can be reactivated at any moment. Erosion resulting from dune impact is observed in the Calchaquí region, contributing to sedimentation processes in rivers, such as the one in Santa María. Comprehensive land-use planning is deemed necessary, requiring a contextual understanding in advance. Despite existing interests, there is a lack of holistic thinking to comprehend the collective regional efforts.

D. Relevant actors to add:

The INAFCI has a long history in the Calchaquí Valley; the Area Agronomies in the province of Catamarca are a provincial extension program.

The water regulation agencies in each province are very diversified in Tucumán. Catamarca has a very finite structure of water administration (surface); agricultural production organizations, associations, cooperatives, and indigenous communities (which are much more organized in the Calchaquí valley of Tucumán); irrigation consortiums play a significant role in Salta, serving as a pivotal entity channeling funding requests for communities. Strengthening these consortia could enhance their effectiveness. In Tucumán, similar irrigation boards exist; however, the provincial government's influence is more pronounced, and governance is more distributed compared to Salta and Catamarca. Moreover, Tucumán boasts a higher number of technical experts involved in these initiatives.

E. Complementary activities or projects:

There is an agreement with the CREAS group, a non-profit civil association made up and directed by agricultural entrepreneurs who meet in groups to share experiences and knowledge, and with INTA Chilecito, who are specialists in groundwater. The only possibility of expanding rural exploitation is through groundwater exploration. The works for surface water require less investment, but are very complex, while those for groundwater are simpler, but require electrical energy and more expense.

F. Genre:

They do not have access to groundwater and do not have the capacity to expand the cultivated area due to the subdivision of plots and the stagnation and reduction of surface water. They have fewer tools to manage with the consequences of climate change.

4.4.2. Conclusions and agreements

There is a need for investment in developing territorial capacities among the population and individuals who initiate thinking about the tri-province region, functioning as a basin. This involves more than merely delivering talks; it requires meaningful engagement. Understanding water as a political issue, especially in terms of disputes, is crucial. The water problem extends beyond technological efficiency to encompass serious administrative challenges. There is a call to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders and enhance real governmental administration capacities ; for example, instead of a computer, a van. This entails the training of individuals and a commitment to retaining trained personnel in the territory for the long term. To get involved in

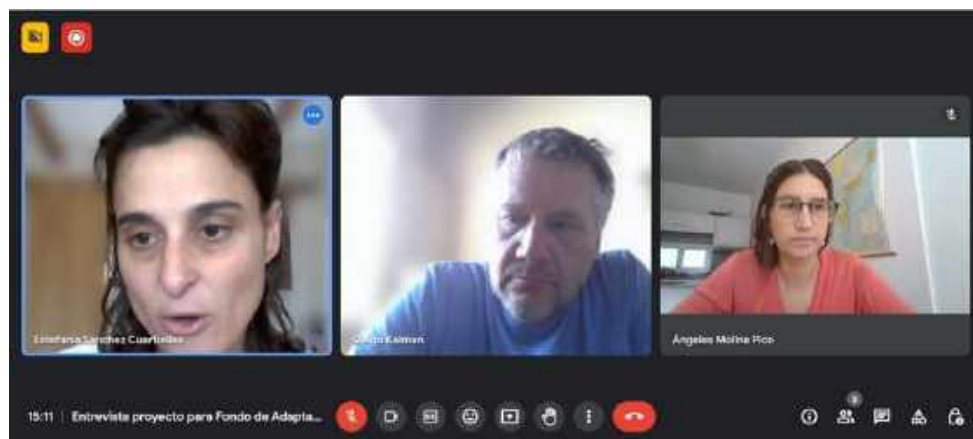
the university agenda to add research and to transfer capacities.

Territorial Innovation Platforms (PIT) are proposed as collective regional/interregional public-private spheres to identify and prioritize problems and opportunities that contribute to regional innovation in the short, medium, and long term. The organized participation of the different sectors in the analysis and prioritization process is essential to encourage innovation, as it ensures a multisectoral and multidimensional vision and the identification of technological, economic, social, and environmental constraints.

The PITs are an interesting tool for organizing and mobilizing SAAA innovation networks. A central function is to keep the diagnoses and strategies to be followed in the territory up to date, to coordinate the articulation of the instruments to be implemented in the territory and to carry out the tasks of permanent monitoring of the proposed activities.

The scale of the PIT approach, with emphasis on the definition and scope of the territories, may be Local/Regional, involves one or more territories of the same Regional Center. Interregional: it covers a territory that involves more than one Regional Center with common characteristics, problems and opportunities that imply combining strategies and actions on axes that act as coordinators in view of a common objective or nucleus.

4.4.3. Photographic evidence



4.5. Interview 5 - National Parks

Name of institutions:

- National Parks Administration. NOA Regional Directorate
- Los Cardones National Park

Participants:

- Maria Elena Sanchez
- Emilio Daher
- Located in Salta

4.5.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD" (year: 2010- 2019).

The importance of the Multisectoral Committees was taken up again from the previous project, although they emphasized the need for the commissions to be territorial and not by jurisdiction.

B. Project implementation opportunities:

It would be very opportune in Valles Calchaquies now that the renewal of the Territorial Ordinance (OTBN) is underway. It would be very useful to give continuity to the works that were done to improve access to water with the GEF 2010 Project, since their condition is now deficient.

Diversification is deemed important, suggesting potential in llama breeding for meat. However, the current tourist focus is in Cachi. There is an observed decline in small livestock, particularly sheep and goats engaged in free grazing with the assistance of dogs. Strategic research initiatives, akin to those dedicated to Andean potato varieties, are underway in locations such as Los Cardones, Santa Ana, and Valle Colorado.

Tourism is highly developed in Cachi and Cafayate, primarily driven by medium and large entrepreneurs. Rural tourism is currently under development in San Carlos but has not expanded further north. This presents an opportunity for young people to establish themselves in the region.

C. Challenges in project implementation:

Distance. Time-consuming and resource-intensive (land connectivity needs to be promoted).

There are challenges in livestock management, partly due to the sedentarism of the herders themselves, leading to disputes. Additionally, there are issues arising from the encroachment of vineyard owners. Sanitary conditions are also reported to be deficient.

D. Relevant actors to add:

- It is important to add rural schools as a stakeholder as well as the zonal supervisors. If the invitation is extended through the Ministry of Education, the response time is expected to be longer, particularly in Salta. The Environmental Education Plan is in the process of developing a map for rural schools, including those in La Poma. Notably, there are several schools situated in places like Cerro Tejadas.
- Facundo Fernández APN Cuyo in Córdoba.
- INAFCI technician Ramiro Ragno is a reference in rural community-based tourism.

E. Complementary activities or projects:

- PROFOCI program for strengthening indigenous communities, two stages for access to water. Together with INAFCI and INTA, solar pumps were built.
- PADAS Project, Program to Support the Development of Sustainable Activities in Rural Populations linked to protected areas.
- Ecosystem Restoration project with CAF in Pozuelos and Cardones for the management and restoration of high-altitude meadows.
- APN's Paisajes Project (Proyecto de Recuperación Sustentable de Paisajes y Medios de Vida en Argentina).

F. Genre:

In the Calchaquí Valleys there are the United Communities of Mills (La CUM) of the Luracatao Valley, which brings together several communities. There are women's groups with a collective brand. Many people live alone, many are isolated and are not organized; they live in the headwaters of watersheds in very fragile areas.

4.5.2. 1.1.1. Conclusions and agreements

Promoting land connectivity requires a lot of time and resources.

The proposal involves establishing Commissions for the Project that extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries. There is a recognized need for a space to coordinate and articulate the project within the territory .

4.5.3. Photographic evidence



4.6. Interview 6 - ONDTyD Observatory

Participants:

- Almut Therburg, Coordinator of the ONDTyD
- Elena María Abraham Researcher at IADIZA CONICET and part of the Observatory.
- Located in Mendoza

4.6.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

- Knowledge of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD" (year: 2010- 2019).**

Unfortunately, it was a negative experience. Although they submitted their proposal to the Focal Point, it did not receive recognition from the Project Coordination at MAYS. According to Elena Abraham, the project was executed with limited criteria and lacked scientific support. Despite conducting workshops in Catamarca, their efforts went unrecognized.

B. Project implementation opportunities

The pilot sites have been operational since 2011, albeit with limited funding. To ensure the sustainability of the project, it would be prudent to leverage these existing sites. Each site has an institutional counterpart and is integrated into the National Action Program. The ONDTyD could play a pivotal role in providing a network and enhancing institutionalization. Additionally, if new sites emerge, they could be seamlessly incorporated into the Observatory, and vice versa.

C. Challenges in project implementation:

There is a crucial need for institutional coordination with the ONDTyD for the successful implementation of the Project. Furthermore, it is essential to consider the protocols and technical reports prepared for the implementation of practices in the territory.

D. Relevant players to add:

This issue has not been specifically addressed.

E. Complementary activities or projects

A manual of sustainable practices has been developed based on the experience in Lavalle, issued by LADA. In the realm of water management, well drilling activities are conducted in collaboration with private companies. Additionally, training programs encompass sustainable brick production and hydroponic crop cultivation. Notably, in Los Colorados (La Rioja), there are mills dedicated to carob processing.

F. Genre

This issue has not been specifically addressed.

4.6.2. Conclusions and agreements

Proposal to include in Component 4 the transfer to strengthen decision making.

4.6.3. Photographic evidence



4.7. Interview 7 - Sierra de las Quijadas National Park

Participants:

- Nahuel Valente
- Located in San Luis

4.7.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the previous project: "MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino- PNUD" (year: 2010- 2019):

He has not participated.

B. Project implementation opportunities

The primary challenge in the area is the scarcity of water and the associated problems arising from this limitation, including high temperatures, erosion, and strong winds. Presently, a 'desert aqueduct' is in place to supply water, covering 150 km. A hose is used to transport water, and the communities along the route collectively manage its distribution. Due to limited pressure, residents organize shifts for accessing water, employing makeshift solutions like 'cisterns on pallets' and *pelopincho* to collect water where possible. The pressure is diminishing due to the growing number of users, particularly in El Forzudo, home to 30 families. These communities, classified as NBI (Unsatisfied Basic Needs), face migration challenges due to the absence of essential services. Access to formal education is a persistent issue, with difficulties in recruiting teachers. The lack of water hinders agricultural activities such as vegetable gardens and the cultivation of shade trees. In terms of production, community fields are utilized for cattle raising. However, there is a lack of livestock management, and the absence of organized fencing or paddocks leads to shared pastures and competition for maintaining quality animals. In goat production, tasks are differentiated, with male farmers typically overseeing livestock and women caring for small animals such as goats while engaging in cheese production.

C. Challenges in project implementation

In addressing the water accessibility issue, it is imperative to consider another significant limitation: access to the site. Reaching the communities around the National Park requires a circuitous route, necessitating a journey through San Luis, entry through San Juan, crossing the bridge, and covering an additional 50 km beyond the asphalt. During rainfall, the roads become impassable. An alternative route exists through the park, employing trails known exclusively to park rangers, significantly reducing travel time. Communication poses another challenge; while the communities have electricity, internet access is limited. Organizational challenges also arise. Having a dedicated individual or team responsible for project oversight, helping with tasks like purchases and inventories, would prove invaluable. Community members require organizational support to effectively address these challenges.

D. Relevant players to add:

Laguna Guanacache holds the designation of a RAMSAR site, and the Sierra de Las Quijadas National Park is an integral part of the Watershed Management Commission, thereby making it an integral component of the site. In the western sector, eleven (11) communities belonging to the Huarpe nation coexist along the coast of the Desaguadero River. Among these communities is the Huarpe Las Trancas community, originating from Mendoza. Along the river, there are several communities, with the El Forzudo and El Retamo communities being the most distinctive ones that share territory with the park. These two communities have historical ties with the park and are an integral part of the RAMSAR site.

E. Complementary activities or projects

Around 2012 a DAS project (Sustainable Development Project implemented in National Parks financed by the Global Environment Facility - GEF) was carried out in which water cisterns were built for the community, but the interaction between technicians and community people was flawed and short-circuited. Several attempts were made to present projects, but no funding was obtained. Productive and cultural activities are being lost due to abandonment.

Regarding employment issues, an effort was made to implement a 'PotenciAR' work initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development. It targeted 135 individuals facing vulnerability and NBI. Although projects were prepared, the initiative did not materialize. This experience has led to a loss of credibility and trust in individuals who approach the community offering projects.

There was a craftsmanship in the park, products were shipped, the pandemic cut off a lot of things. Conservation outside the park is important and funding is needed to improve the quality of life of the people who live around the park. Sierras de Las Quijadas National Park is 30 years old, dating back to 1991. Historically, those territories were fields where people lived, had their houses and jobs, and when the park was created, they were kicked out. From the river to San Luis, there are still rural water collection structures, but they continue to collect water, which is a fundamental subsistence resource; they graze inside the park without authorization. There is a sector within the park that has water all year round. This is a conservation problem because all the cows from 50 km around go there to drink water. This can only be achieved through projects that improve the infrastructure, because people cannot be denied from water access.

F. Genre

There is an organized group of women known as '*Las Manos sabias del desierto*' who engage in weaving. They have established a complete productive chain but encountered an issue with the yarn supply. Additionally, they collaborate with INTA Concarán from the town of Merlo. Recently, they organized a meeting of Comechingona women producers.

4.7.2. Conclusions and agreements

Documentation sent in Annex: PROFOCI project and western aqueduct project.

- Communities Information: <https://lavallenativo.com/index.php/comunidad-elias-guaquinchay-el-retamo/>

- Diagnosis and management plan for the Sierra de Las Quijadas National Park 2018-2023:
https://sib.gob.ar/archivos/Resumen_ejecutivo_PG_PNSQ.pdf

4.7.3. Photographic evidence



4.8. Interview 8 - Rural Women's Network

The interview with the Women's Network was held on October 23, 2023, at 2 p.m. and was attended by 3 women members of the Network, since one of them with whom we had previously communicated was unable to attend that day. The space for exchange was very valuable since the network has extensive experience in gender issues related to rural areas, in addition to the fact that it brings together multiple organizations with a broad territorial scope.

4.8.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the MST Project " *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino* -UNDP" (year: 2010-2019).

The members of the network who participated in the meeting stated that they were not aware of the MST Project "Sustainable Land Management in Northwest Argentina-UNDP" (year: 2010-2019).

B. Role of the institution linked to the future project

Regarding the role they could play in the project, they emphasized that the Network could link the project with organizations in the territories and contribute its experience in the methodology for mainstreaming the gender perspective in the implementation of the project.

C. Challenges in project implementation

At the meeting, no obstacles to the implementation of the Project were reported. However, after reading the working material of the Network "W20 Rural: Obstacles to the development of rural women's economic activities", it became clear that one of the shortcomings is that rural development programs make the role of women as producers invisible and promote a family-oriented approach, which ignores the specific conditions in which rural women live and work and prevents the identification of barriers that limit their participation and insertion in training and decision-making spaces. The absence of public policies with gender equity and participation of civil society and the business sector means that the State proposes programs with obsolete and inadequate formats for rural women to access. The format of the programs continues to promote a division between the technical and the social, giving priority to the former over the latter and thus determining the failure of many investments in the technological field, since grassroots organizations are unable to manage or administer innovation correctly within the expected timeframe.

Along these lines, the main obstacles faced by women in the development of economic activities, among which the following stand out:

- Lack of infrastructure: the main obstacle in most rural communities or sites is, without a doubt, isolation. One of the areas in which the lack of infrastructure is most significant is access to water, both for human consumption and for production. Isolation is also determined by the lack of accessibility to ICTs.
- Land tenure: the main challenge for rural women is to secure land tenure, since the lack of definitive titles represents an additional barrier to accessing subsidies and credit.
- The availability of specific funds for the organization and empowerment of women: the development of production also involves organizational aspects that are often underestimated and invisible.

See more details at: <https://mujeresrurales.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Obstaculos-w20-rural.pdf>

D. Experiences and articulated work with other institutions related to CC and gender:

The Network addresses the issue of infrastructure, water, making visible the activities of the organizations involved throughout the territory. For more information about the network visit its website: <https://mujeresrurales.com/somos/>

Gender equity plays a fundamental role in the Women's Network. Each of the organizations in the network works on gender issues as the main axis and in a cross-cutting manner in their activities and projects. The Rural Women's Network is made up of associations as well as professionals and producers, with the idea of connecting the diversity of sectors, making visible a common agenda for rural, peasant and indigenous women, and for small entrepreneurs in the agro-industrial and forestry sectors, etc.

During 2021 and 2022, they have held training and exchange cycles about access, water management and financing with the idea of socializing experiences. They worked with a platform linked to water for human consumption and production and the gendered look at how long it takes them to access to use water in their daily tasks.

They maintain links with universities in Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, and Mendoza with whom they have worked on issues related to water care and access to water through a Scientific and Technological Research Oriented Project (PICTO) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MINCYT).

The members of the network are delegates and members of the W20 for Argentina, and work on the issue of rural women.

They have extensive and outstanding knowledge of gender and climate change. Among those mentioned, the following stand out: Water cycle and financing for women. Financing issues. Use of time to access water.

The Gran Chaco Foundation's website contains information on a project carried out between Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay, where studies were conducted on gender and climate change. Particularly on adaptive capacity in two chains: cattle and goat.

The network uses and recommends the gender methodology in line with the Gender Action Plan of the Climate Change Convention for both the analysis of production chains and the participation of women in these chains.

They have worked with INTA, Gran Chaco Collective Network, World Bank, Proyungas.

E. Studies and documentation related to Climate Change (CC) and Gender:

- W20 Rural: Obstacles for the development of the activities economic activities of the women economic activities of rural women: <https://mujeresrurales.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Obstaculos-w20-rural.pdf>
- National Meeting of Rural Women: https://mujeresrurales.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Encuentro-Nacional-en-Salta_Dic2019.pdf
- Education and training: the challenge of rural women for the development of enterprises: <https://mujeresrurales.com/educacion-y-capacitacion-el-desafio-de-las-mujeres-rurales-para-el-desarrollo-de-emprendimientos/>
- The adaptation to change from a perspective of gender and diversity: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/la_adaptacion_al_cambio_climatico_desde_una_perspectiva_de_genero_and_diversity.pdf
- Resilience at Gran Chaco with Focus at Gender: <https://www.granchacoproadapt.org/portal/component/spsimpleportfolio/item/42-resiliencia-climatica-en-el-gran-chaco-con-enfoque-de-g>
- Guide for the incorporation of the gender perspective in the formulation of territorial environmental planning projects. Gender and Environment. MAYDS, GEF, UNDP. Gran Chaco Foundation
- Initiative to promote the financial inclusion of rural women. SMS and the Rural Women's Network, with support from Resiliencia SGR and Fundación Flor.

F. Relevant stakeholders to be convened in future instances of the project.

They suggested the organization of environmental defenders, which was present in NOA and NEA, consisting of women's groups accustomed to formulating climate change strategies with a focus on environmental justice .

G. Participation of women, young people or other vulnerable groups in environment-related management bodies and committees

The Network highlighted the importance of encouraging the participation of women. They mentioned the methodology organized by IUCN to participate in climate change issues. They recommended first mapping the actors and then see how to level the playing field. They mentioned promoting face-to-face participation, since virtual participation is difficult. Rescue the knowledge of elderly women and the path of women in the organization process.

4.8.2. Conclusions and agreements

The network undertook to review whether there are organizations within the project's areas of intervention to join the project. Among the main conclusions, the following aspects stand out:

- Access to and management of water is one of the three main demands of the communities of the territory and the NOA.

- Seek investments and make the groups visible and incorporate the investments so that they participate more actively in other areas of the project. In other words, to promote political participation, in decision-making spaces, so that there is a gender balance. The Network is working to establish a gender committee in the Agroindustrial Council.
- To make women visible, to leverage those who are in more masculinized sectors and to transform them into active actors.
- The relevance of counting the indicators and what they will report is highlighted.

4.9. Interview 9 – National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI)

The interview with the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs was held on Thursday, October 26 at 2:30 p.m. and was attended by two women from the institution. The exchange was very valuable as it allowed to establish the first exchanges at an early stage and to promote an articulated work in the future.

4.9.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the MST Project “*Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino -UNDP*” (year: 2010-2019).

The members of NARI who participated in the meeting stated that they were aware of the “MST Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino” Project (year: 2010-2019).

INAI was in contact with the project during the last part of the formulation stage and at the start of implementation. They collaborated with the MAYDS, since the projects presented within the framework of this project went through INAI and from there they checked the participation of the native communities. Likewise, the communities, through the Indigenous Participation Councils, consulted them on whether this project and the work being carried out was real.

Since the execution took place in the middle of the pandemic by COVID 19, the process was complex because they could not go to the territory.

B. Role of the institution linked to the future project.

Regarding the role they could play in the project, they recommended working on the dissemination and consultation process ahead of time. The Indigenous Participation Council (CPI) is the area within INAI through which the consultations should be developed. They can dialogue with the communities and support the consultation process as well as the Indigenous Community Development Directorate.

C. Challenges in project implementation

During the meeting, no obstacles to the implementation of the Project were reported. However, from their experience they made some recommendations to facilitate the participatory process in the early stages. To this end, they recommended:

- Mapping of projects underway or recently completed in the area, to analyze whether these funds can complement other works carried out.
- Once the intervention area has been defined, it is advisable to coordinate with INAI's consultation area to coordinate consultation with the communities. In an experience with the IDB in the management of water for human consumption, a consultation process was carried out first with the representatives of the CPIs and then with the communities.

D. Experiences and articulated work with other institutions related to CC and Indigenous Peoples:

In Argentina there are approximately 1,800 to 2,000 native communities, of which only 1,000 are georeferenced. Of these, 90 are in the Puna, 16 in the Calchaquí valleys (although it is worth considering that the Diaguitas in Tucumán have a different way of organizing themselves because a community has several base communities; therefore, it would be approximately 50 base communities). In the south of San Juan there are 4 identified communities (georeferences). In Catamarca there are no identified native communities.

The NOA communities in general are very organized communities with experience in project management and implementation, both from INAI and other public agencies. There are two programs, one on water access plans with the Secretariat of Family, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture (SAFPI), which includes various forms of water management (cisterns, wells, and others) but it has just started to be implemented in Salta, and they are evaluating whether it will be implemented in other areas. They have provided support in the formulation of the projects.

Another program is the program for access to water and sanitation in dispersed rural areas with CAF. It is in the preliminary design stage in the province of Santiago del Estero.

In Jujuy and Tucumán there is an experienced team, and in San Juan there are two people who could help in the formulation of projects, and they participate in the water roundtable. They have a lot of information gathered in Tucumán on the water issue, as well as in Jujuy.

INAI has a framework cooperation agreement in force with INTA. There is an area of INTA that has been working on intercultural issues, and from the interview it emerged that it would be positive to move forward with them as a support institution. The extension area also has this approach.

They work with the MAYDS, but the relationship is less fluid at the political level. They worked with the Sustainable Land Management project in the Dry Zones of Northwest Argentina" -MST NOA-Cuyo (PNUD ARG 14/G55).

E. Studies and documentation related to Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples:

Regarding studies related to Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change, although the people who participated in the interview had not participated in this process, the Intercultural Dialogues stand out as a space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between representatives of organizations and communities of indigenous peoples and technical teams of the National Directorate of Climate Change. The objective of this participatory process was to agree on the instances and dynamics of participation to exchange knowledge and experiences with a view to generating inputs to nurture the national planning process for adaptation to climate change, making visible the perspective of indigenous peoples regarding climate change, its effects and how to address them, and thus serve as a starting point to facilitate the construction and continuous improvement of the various planning instruments for national climate action.

During the months of July and November 2022, four Intercultural Dialogues were held in workshop format (one per region), with representatives of each organization that makes up the Coordinating Committee of National Organizations of Indigenous Peoples of Argentina (CONAPIA) and the TICCA Network, the results of which were presented in a report per region, with the main conclusions:

- Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/cambio-climatico/gabinete-nacional-de-cambio-climatico/pueblos-indigenas-y-cambio-climatico>
- Methodology for the development of participatory processes with Indigenous Peoples
- Intercultural Dialogue Results Report - NEA Region (November 2022)
- Intercultural Dialogue Results Report - NOA Region (July 2022)
- Intercultural Dialogue Results Report - Central Region (September 2022)

- Introductory manual for intercultural dialogues
- Cross-cultural dialogues on climate change (2022)

F. Relevant stakeholders to be convened in future instances of the project

Depending on the response to section D, INTA could be added to the project, working teams that are working together with the native communities that reside in the different geographic areas of future intervention of the project.

G. Participation of women, young people or other vulnerable groups in environment-related management bodies and committees

In the Kolla communities of Jujuy there are several women community leaders. The Chacana in Amaicha was a women-only group. In the Kolla people and in the Puna, women are authorities and have a more active role, compared to other communities such as the Wichis.

During the harvest season, it is generally men who travel to other provinces to work on farms and in agricultural tasks. This type of worker is known as a "swallow worker". When the men are absent from their homes, it is the women who take on the organization and management of their households and productive activity in their places of residence.

A case is mentioned of an organization led by a woman who, despite the level of conflict within the community and the grassroots organizations, was the one who tried to bring the parties together and reduce the conflict through dialogue with everyone.

Natalia participated in an experience in 2014/2015 on women leaders, where a more western gender perspective was proposed and at that time, she was a little shocked. She does not know how it will be now.

They suggest considering the involvement of young people, although INAI works with the community as a unit.

4.9.2. Conclusions and agreement

Among the main conclusions, the following aspects stand out:

- Promote face-to-face consultation processes. Articulate with the Indigenous Participation Council to reach the communities.
- Identify with the communities and NACI the demands and solutions they raise.
- NARI expressed concern as to whether the project will work on water management for human consumption and/or productive consumption.
- To analyze the status of local governments and their relationship with indigenous communities.
- They stated that it is essential to seek roots in the territories.

Agreements: they expressed their interest in the project and in collaborating as deemed appropriate, as well as linking us with other areas of INAI.

4.9.3. Photographic evidence



4.10. Interview 10- National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI)- NOA team

A second meeting was held with the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs on Thursday, November 2 at 11 a.m., with the participation of 2 women and 6 men from the INAI team in Tucumán (which also supports actions in the province of Catamarca), the Gender, Territorial Approach and Consultation team. The exchange space was very valuable as it allowed the first early exchanges specifically linked to the NOA region to be established.

4.10.1. *Main findings*

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the MST Project " *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino -UNDP*" (year: 2010-2019).

The members of NARI who participated in the meeting stated that they were aware of the "MST Sustainable Land Management in Northwest Argentina-UNDP Project" (year: 2010-2019).

In one of the calls for proposals they presented a project that was not approved, but they were able to obtain financing through another organization, which allowed them to execute it. The project consisted of putting deep water wells in the Puna with solar panels.

B. Role of the institution linked to the future project

The INAI team works with the communities located in different provinces where the project is being implemented. They work and have contact with the communities in Tucumán and support some communities in Catamarca and the Calchaquí Valley.

This previous work is considered a great potential for the implementation of the project that could recover the existing work and could facilitate the contact with the native communities.

On the other hand, INAI has a lawyer and legal advisor who for the last two years has been conducting free, prior and informed consultation actions in water and gas pipeline projects, among others.

C. Challenges in project implementation

No obstacles to the implementation of the Project were reported at the meeting. However, they emphasized the importance of collaborating with the CPI to identify suitable partners and prevent potential issues in the future - adding up to the effort.

Another issue that was raised was the need to work in an integrated manner and for all the parties involved to be able to listen to each other, avoiding working in watertight compartments and giving importance to the knowledge of those who are in the territory. They also shared some experiences with projects that have been approved and then could not be implemented due to lack of disbursement.

D. Experiences and articulated work with other institutions related to CC and Indigenous Peoples:

In the last few years, they have executed 5 projects related to water issues and are currently executing 2 projects with the Directorate of Sectorial and Special Programs and Projects of the Office of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (DIPROSE) of the National Ministry of Economy.

The Tucumán Water Management Board operated in Tucumán, convening once a month without additional formalities. The roundtable's purpose was to analyze proposals and monitor project progress. Diverse opinions from various experiences were considered, emphasizing the importance of involving institutions in an oversight role during the execution phase.

The committee comprised representatives from the Regional INTA, which covered the provinces of Santiago, Catamarca, and Tucumán. It also included delegates from INAFCI of Tucumán, INAI, the provincial government, and the Directorate of Water Resources of Region 4, encompassing the Calchaquí Valleys. Additionally, the executing unit of productive development projects, under the former Ministry of Productive Development of the Nation, actively participated in the committee.

E. Studies and documentation related to Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples:

In this interview no mention was made of studies and documents. Some relevant data were presented:

- The Calchaquí valley is a desert area, and nothing would be produced if it were not for the implementation of some resource for water collection and distribution. The annual rainfall is 150 mm and the technical calculation for the life of the plants is 700 mm per year. This deficit must be sought.
- By nature, ice is sometimes stored as a subway aquifer. As it is a finite resource, they recommend that it would be good to pay attention to the high zones, which are the water producers. And although attention is generally paid to the lower zones because that is where the productive zones are.
- The importance of addressing long-term issues is emphasized, otherwise, no matter how much effort is made, desertification will end up occurring. The areas that die are difficult to recover, it is important to make efforts in this regard. They hope that this approach will be considered in the project and thus work on where the water is generated.
- It is necessary to be more demanding with the projects to see how the care of the forests will be.
- Diagnosis for the rational use of subway aquifers. The National University of Tucumán and INAI made a mapping of these aquifers, and then they made the wells for their use. Knowing that it is not a resource that can be exploited infinitely, but it is something that is recharged.

F. Relevant stakeholders to be convened in future instances of the project

Depending on the response to point D, the Water Management Board, which includes several institutions, could be added to the project.

The Amaicha community has been working on native forest projects for 12 years. Recently, projects have been presented and approved, but they have not yet received the first disbursement. They have also been in contact with the provincial Undersecretary of the Environment and have been asked to be observers and participate in the preliminary information stage for the management plans in Potreros and other communities. Communities such as Amaicha and Quilmes have experience in projects.

G. Participation of women, young people or other vulnerable groups in environment-related management bodies and committees

INAI maintained a dedicated area for gender, communities, and diversity, consisting of two women; however, the position of director is currently vacant. They have established collaboration with the MAYDS, maintaining an open agenda to address gender and environmental issues. Presently, they are in the process of developing a project aimed at training women's organizations. Coordination with the ongoing project formulation would be beneficial.

Regarding women's participation in decision-making forums, they mentioned that it is generally men who formulate and participate in these roundtables. They are working with the MAYDS to strengthen indigenous women's organizations. These are women's organizations that seek an income and employment or to generate a source of income. INAI has some data and statistics on the different areas and themes according to the organizations, and it is also working on incorporating the gender perspective in the projects.

4.10.2. *Conclusions and agreements*

Among the main conclusions, the following aspects stand out:

- Articulate with the Indigenous Participation Council to reach the communities.
- Considering the previous work that INAI is already doing in the area is a great potential for the implementation of the project that could recover the existing work and could facilitate contact with the native communities.
- To address long-term issues in the projects, to work in an integral manner, to consider the knowledge and learning of the people of the territory, to contemplate the gender perspective in a cross-cutting manner.

Agreements: they expressed their interest in the project, in guaranteeing dialogue with the communities and in collaborating as deemed appropriate, as well as linking us with other areas of INAI.

4.10.3. *Photographic evidence*



4.11. Interview 11 - National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI) - NOA II team

A third meeting was held with the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs on Thursday, November 2 at 2 p.m. and was attended by 8 people (3 women and 5 men) from the INAI work team of the provinces of Salta and Jujuy, as well as from the areas of Territorial Approach, Gender, and Consultation. The exchange space was very valuable as it allowed establishing the first exchanges at an early stage and promoting an articulated work in the future specifically linked to the NOA region.

4.11.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the MST Project " *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino* -UNDP" (year: 2010-2019).

No comments were made at this meeting regarding the " *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino* -UNDP" Project (year: 2010-2019).

B. Role of the institution linked to the future project

In this interview, no complementary contributions to those already mentioned in the two previous interviews with NACI were made. In other words, they expressed their interest in collaborating in the formulation stage through their knowledge of the territory and dialogue with the communities. Also, to collaborate during project implementation by accompanying the beneficiaries.

C. Challenges in project implementation

During the meeting, no obstacles to the implementation of the project were expressed. However, they highlighted some aspects that could become obstacles for the project if they are not considered in the design process, such as:

- Most of the communities are not registered with AFIP, especially those belonging to the Chaco Salteño, which are mentioned as the most vulnerable.
- The difficulties in having a bank account for community organizations must be considered.
- Some institutions are very hermetic, but INAI can help to facilitate the arrival to the territory.
- They highlight the territorial situation of the communities that leads to territorial conflicts because in most of the communities of Jujuy the property titles belong to other people outside the communities. They ask if they are going to demand the issue of community titles, and in this case the importance of incorporating the provincial authorities during the process so that they can collaborate in the execution in case of any conflict.
- The projects for the communities have been patchy for a long time; the water works for consumption and production have not been completed.

D. Experiences and articulated work with other institutions related to CC and Indigenous Peoples:

The work teams have collaborated on productive and community projects for several years.

From their work experience, they emphasize the importance of considering each area and community within its social context, understanding its productive situation, and recognizing the institutions it collaborates with. For instance, in 2022, they implemented a community solar water heater project with a Quechua community, where challenges related to water access arose. These experiences serve as valuable lessons for future initiatives. The need arises to focus on care, to promote sharing for the careful use of water, to raise awareness of environmental care, that is to say, an integral approach to the problems.

E. Studies and documentation related to Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples:

In this interview no mention was made of studies and documents. Some relevant data were presented:

- One of the issues they are working on is the land use planning of the native forest (with the Secretariat of the Environment) to see if it can be cleared, used sustainably, or restored.
- Mining activity is concentrated in the Puna, currently there are few families living in the Puna. In the northern area of Santiago de los Cobres and Pocitos there are more people who are also involved in mining and there are some mining posts.
- In the valleys there are many producers with livestock and crops. In the forest area there are people with greater social vulnerability, who are dedicated to the collection of fruits and live in the bush.
- Jujuy has similar characteristics to Salta, they are very focused on mining, and in the gorge are the areas of agricultural production, rather than livestock.
- The department of Susques is a lithium production area and they are in favor of it, but they realize that since they do not have agricultural tools and technology and do not exploit agricultural and livestock activities, they are at a disadvantage when negotiating with the mining companies. They want to undertake projects, but they do not have the tools and do not know how and what is more convenient for them to produce.
- In Rinconada the lack of water is serious.

F. Relevant stakeholders to be convened in future instances of the project

No new actors were identified during this interview. Mention was made of INTA, National Parks, INAFCI, etc.

G. Participation of women, young people or other vulnerable groups in environment-related management bodies and committees

Jujuy and Salta have women's organizations that work with INAI. Women play a significant role in productive activities and equally contribute to community tasks alongside men .

The women oversee various tasks; for example, in Jujuy, they participate in activities related to tourism, manage the community economy and create intercommunity networks with different concerns.

They raise the need to empower women to participate in decision making. They feel discriminated against because in some decisions they do not take their opinions into account. INIA tries to provide them with tools and support them in this regard.

At the cultural level, and as these are traditions that are passed down, young women try to occupy the same roles as their mothers and grandmothers. They oversee education and health.

Gender training is being carried out with the Kollas and Guaraní communities in the Yungas ecoregion, together with National Parks and the SAF.

4.11.2. Conclusions and agreements

Among the main conclusions, the following aspects stand out:

- Importance of working on projects in an integrated and not segmented manner.
- Consider water resources for both human consumption and production.
- They suggest making canals as in Cachi and incorporating guidelines to avoid water waste.
- Empowering women in decision making.
- Give importance to land use planning and the land tenure situation.

Agreements: they expressed their interest in the project and in collaborating in whatever is considered appropriate, as well as linking us with other areas of INAI. A water expert engineer stated that he has ideas for valleys and for the Puna and expressed his aspiration to have a meeting with the Ministry of the Environment and generate a working group.

4.11.3. Photographic evidence



4.12. Interview 12 - National Institute of Indigenous Affairs (INAI) - Cuyo Team

A fourth meeting was held with the National Institute of Indigenous Affairs on Thursday, November 2 at 4:00 p.m., with the participation of 2 men and 2 women from the technical team of the provinces of San Juan and Mendoza, from INAI's Territorial and Gender Approach. The exchange was very valuable as it allowed establishing the first exchanges at an early stage and promoting an articulated work in the future specifically linked to the Cuyo region.

4.12.1. Main findings

The following is a description of the main findings found during the interview process grouped by the following topics:

A. Knowledge of the MST Project " *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino* -UNDP" (year: 2010-2019).

No comments were made at this meeting regarding the " *Manejo Sustentable de Tierras del Noroeste Argentino*" Project (year: 2010-2019).

B. Role of the institution linked to the future project

In terms of their potential role in the project, their reach to the communities and the existing groundwork they have established serve as a favorable platform for initiating new projects.

C. Challenges in project implementation

During the meeting, no obstacles to the implementation of the project were expressed. However, they highlighted some aspects that could become obstacles for the project if they are not considered in the design process, such as:

- One consideration to consider is that INAI does not have vehicles to reach the communities, so it is good to articulate with other actors to facilitate the arrival to the territories.
- On the other hand, they stressed the importance of providing permanent technical accompaniment; this support is needed up to the moment when it is working alone. As INAI officials in the territories, they can accompany them since that is their task. The problem is that when many projects end, they leave no one to accompany them. It is necessary to generate this institutional commitment. This is an important issue to consider related to project management.

- Working groups could be generated from the Ministry of the Environment together with other stakeholders in the territory, such as the municipality, INTA, and others. For Ramsar site, areas of the province, it is essential to generate a working group for the sustainability of the projects.
- One of the problems in presenting projects within the framework of the forest law is that, with infrastructure projects, a challenge arises as most communities lack community property titles, which are a requirement for projects under the forest law. In an agricultural project we worked with the provincial Land Directorate, which provided a document stating that they are included in that polygon. In this way, the problem of land ownership could be solved. For this reason, it was mentioned that it is important to include the provincial agencies from an early stage so that they get involved and can collaborate if necessary and in this way be able to move forward in the execution.

D. Experiences and articulated work with other institutions related to CC and Indigenous Peoples:

The University of San Juan works with the communities. The observatories are in the foothills and do not work with the communities, they are farther away.

They have also had a positive experience collaborating with the National Ministry of Labor, which has been supportive and has dedicated support lines for native communities. They believe that there is potential for coordination, aiming to complement funds with their existing projects, particularly in areas like the productive matrix and labor-related topics. Additionally, they suggest exploring opportunities for value addition in camelid products (guanaco, llama), such as meat and canned food.

There is a water board in Lavalle, but they are not certain that it is currently operating. They propose a change in the productive matrix; currently they work with goat, but it is an animal that produces desertification. It would be beneficial to collaborate with the SAF and focus on the conservation of local camelids that have been diminishing. Exploring opportunities to work with wool, in addition to meat and leather, could be a valuable avenue. Maintaining new sources of food and the idea of diversifying through the raising of other animals, not only goats.

Regarding the shift in the food and animal production matrix, it is crucial to develop a comprehensive map of stakeholders to identify suitable entities for providing training to communities for the envisioned transformation in the production matrix. Access to slaughterhouses poses a challenge due to high costs, leading to issues in transporting animals and contributing to illegal slaughters. Although there is a project outlining the commercialization circuit, the primary hurdle lies in the operation and management of the slaughterhouse. Securing funding remains a challenge, and there is a need to address concerns related to maintenance and overall administration.

Water-related challenges in the area have been sporadic, with the proposed solution being the construction of an aqueduct. Addressing concerns related to water quality and contamination is paramount. While the possibility of drilling a water well exists, the water in this region is deemed unsuitable for consumption. It is characterized as hard water, posing challenges even for animal use. The mention was made of a survey conducted in 2022, documenting projects in the Guanacache Lagoon area, particularly focused on water-related issues.

They are currently waiting for a response from a DIPROSE project for women on access to water and are updating the budgets to manage the disbursement, and in September they sent the CBU. A framework agreement was signed, and they are working on wells, storage tanks and the possibility of creating a grazing area (buffalo grazing but they were told that it is dangerous for the flora in the area) in the Ramsar lagoon. They wanted to try some type of pasture that uses less water, they were between sorghum and buffer and see how it reacted and everything in terms of water management and drought.

In a community in Asunción, a hydroponics project was carried out, but they ran out of funds. For green fodder, to produce green fodder and help this community of Forzu in Mendoza. In communities near Caucete they also worked on hydroponics (San Juan).

In the Ramsar site they have worked with communities and rural women, and a marathon was held with people in general so that they could get to know the site a little better. Therefore, it would be feasible to work on some joint activities between the communities and other people. They work with INTA and the Guanacache Lagoon Ramsar site. They did something with SAF, but they lost some technicians, because they have already left the institution. The project they presented with INTA was approved

and now they have another one with Diprose. With the forestry law they have not yet presented any projects.

E. Studies and documentation related to Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples:

The technicians from the Ramsar site have conducted studies, and it's indicated that these data are accessible to understand the historical and ongoing work in the area. Collaboration has taken place along various lines, such as pasture development, involving consultations with local communities. There is ongoing analysis to determine potential support for the food bank associated with one of the projects, encompassing both input purchases and cultivation efforts.

F. Relevant stakeholders to be convened in future instances of the project

- INAI's Gender area has an agreement with the National Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversities to coordinate actions.
- Other relevant actors are INTA, SAF, Universities, Ramsar site technicians, municipalities and other local actors.
- The Lavalley water roundtable if it is proven to be currently functioning.

G. Participation of women, young people or other vulnerable groups in environment-related management bodies and committees

Women have been actively engaged in weaving, contributing to a significant environmental impact aimed at combatting desertification. In the San Juan project, there is an integrated food bank initiative, incorporating sorghum for the procurement of food for all the women involved in the project. The project entails a collection center and payment system to ensure a consistent income flow, particularly crucial during project phases. The experience gained from this project could offer valuable insights. The most significant challenge posed by drought conditions is addressing the issue of animal feeding.

In the community of Gobernador Salvador Tarquenca, women play significant roles as artisans and weavers, and many serve as heads of families. Some are already organized, while others may benefit from tools to facilitate their organization. This community stands out as one of the most robust, with active participation from various segments. Notably, the community is currently led by a young woman following the passing of the cacique. Previous efforts involved working with carob flour, and it would be worthwhile to explore environmentally friendly processing methods for this sought-after flour, presenting a potential opportunity.

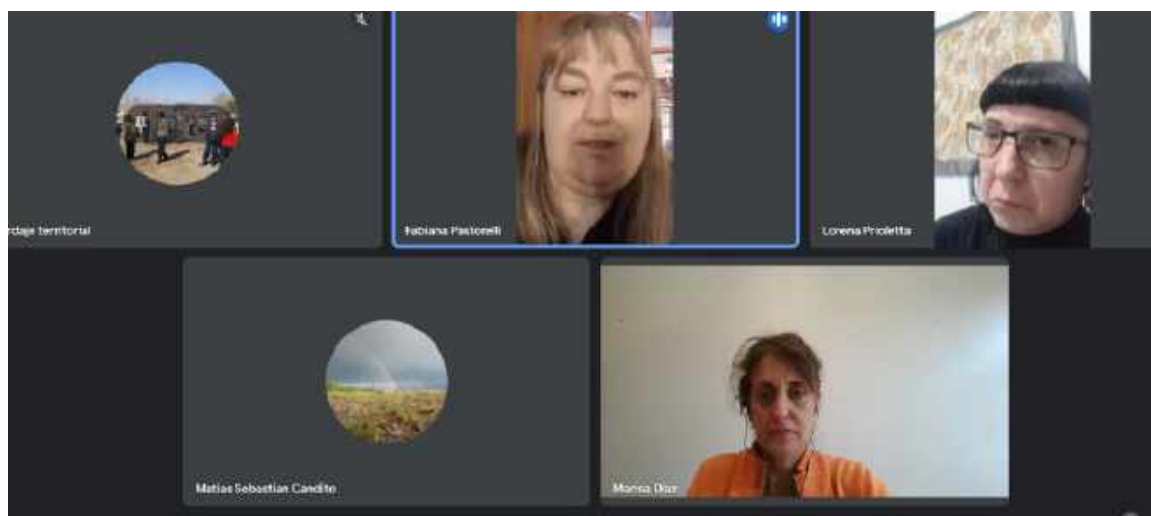
4.12.2. Conclusions and agreements

Among the main conclusions, the following aspects stand out:

- Provide ongoing support and generate institutional commitment to achieve sustainability when funding ends.
- Working groups could be a good tool.
- Propose to work on a change in the productive matrix as an adaptation measure.
- Consider that most of the communities do not have community property titles and that this does not become an obstacle to participate in the projects.
- Addressing the water issue in a comprehensive manner and not in a fragmented way.

Agreements: they expressed their interest in the project and in collaborating as deemed appropriate, as well as linking us with other areas of INAI. They also agreed to share information on the projects they have been carrying out in the last two years.

4.12.3. Photographic evidence



4.13. Supplementary information - Government agencies in the field of gender and diversity

During the participatory and socialization process in the project preparation stage, it was not possible to establish a space for interviews with government agencies around gender and diversity. However, it is relevant to mention that the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development - Climate Change, Development and Sustainable Development Sustainable and Innovation Genders and Diversity are working on "Gender and Diversity".

According to what is published on the MAYDS website, the gender and diversity perspective cuts across the three lines of action that recognize women's and LGBTI+ rights as fundamental to achieving social, environmental and climate justice. These three axes are: 1. sovereignty and autonomy, 2. habitability and 3. care.

This perspective, integrated into the national climate policy, aims to develop climate strategies that:

- to strengthen the physical, political, and economic autonomy of women and LGBTI+ people,
- guarantee social and environmental conditions for the habitability of the territories and access to resources,
- promote the participation of women and LGBTI+ people in consultation and decision-making processes, and
- to promote their role as agents of change in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes, mainstreaming the gender perspective in climate policy instruments

In its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Argentina committed to develop policies to ensure that gender is not a reason for social inequality by 2030. As part of this commitment, it defined the gender and diversity approach as one of the guiding principles that will guide the design, implementation and monitoring of all adaptation and mitigation policies, actions and measures related to meeting the country's climate goals.

Along the same lines, the second Adaptation Communication (AC) provides a categorization of adaptation measures according to their impact on gender gaps. Thus, the inequalities that climate change deepens can be identified and measures can be developed to reduce and eventually eliminate them. In accordance with what is defined by the NDC, the gender and diversity perspective is established as one of the cross-cutting approaches of the National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan to 2030 (PNAmCC) and the Long-Term Low Emissions Resilient Development Strategy to 2050 (ELP).

Five lines of action with a gender and diversity perspective of the PNAmCC:

- Institutionalization of policies and training,
- Planning and budgeting,

- Mechanisms for participation and decision making in strategy formulation,
- Technical-professional training and labor inclusion in strategic sectors,
- Financing of projects with a gender perspective.

Argentina's National Strategy on Gender, Diversity and Climate Change

The National Strategy on Gender, Diversity and Climate Change (ENGdYCC) is currently being developed. This initiative will lay the groundwork for addressing the issue in documents and public policies related to climate action.

In 2022, the first stage of strategy formulation was carried out with a dual purpose: the collection of qualitative data on gender, diversity, and climate change (collectively constructed, compiled and validated by the group of stakeholders that participated in the initiative) and the construction of governance scenarios (arguing that citizen participation is fundamental for the collective achievement of inclusive and democratic agreements in climate action).

To this end, two virtual workshops were held with the participation of 39 civil society organizations and groups at the national and jurisdictional levels, specifically indigenous and peasant organizations and communities, trade unions, cooperatives, grassroots and territorial organizations, academics, who are already working on the intersections between gender and the environment.

The experiences constructed by these groups provide the material and background information for thinking about how perceptions and practices around gender, diversity and climate change are constructed:

- Report of the participatory process. National Strategy for Gender, Diversity and Climate Change 2022-2030 January 2023. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_proceso_participativo_engdycc.pdf

This report shows that the most relevant issues of interest to the organizations are the following:

- climate change (73.3%),
- lack of community participation in environmental issues (56.7%),
- lack of access to adequate housing (decent housing, made of materials, with access to basic services and hygienic conditions) (53.3%),
- pollution (53.3%),
- lack of environmental awareness (53.3%),
- lack of access to safe water (50%), lack of access to land (50%).
- 90% of the participating organizations consider that these issues affect men differently than women and LGBTI+.

When explaining how they understand that this differentiated impact occurs, they generally refer to historical inequalities that place women and diversities at a disadvantage and with fewer resources to face adverse situations and the consequences of climate change and the climate emergency. They also highlight the lack of recognition of women's leadership and their organizations, and the little or no participation in advocacy and decision-making spaces. It is pointed out that women are the first to suffer the effects of climate change and the last to be called upon to make political decisions and to participate in climate action plans.

Most of the participating organizations highlight care work and tasks and the precariousness of access to work, resources and goods (water, land, energy, housing) as the main reason for the differentiated impacts. Another issue alluded to is the lack of an intercultural perspective in legislation and the invisibility of knowledge or criminalization of ancestral practices that are often passed down through the generations by women. In addition, the violence and persecution suffered by women when they defend their territory and common goods was highlighted.

The main environmental and/or climate actions that these organizations carry out are:

- Training - educational actions - awareness-raising (73.3%),
- Campaigns and communications (70%),
- Public policy and regulatory framework advisory services (43.3%)

These organizations consider that their actions have the greatest impact on:

- Awareness of the environmental issues that concern them (60%),
- Environmental health (56.7%) and,
- Generation of knowledge located (53.3%).

The main obstacles linked to gender inequalities that they identify are:

- Care jobs that limit women's time availability.
- The limited or non-existent management of economic resources, which also limits women's participation in different decision-making spaces.
- Difficulty for women to leave their territories and neighborhoods to participate in working groups and participatory instances.
- Gender issues are often considered marginal, making it difficult, for example, to access specific funding.

Among the conclusions of the first stage of the participatory process for the construction of the ENGDCC, the following stand out:

- Prioritize the care axis in the elaboration of the Strategy and in the next participatory instances.
- The need for an intercultural perspective that considers ethnic diversity, both by recognizing traditional and ancestral knowledge and practices in the management of goods and resources, and by considering linguistic diversity when carrying out campaigns, workshops, training and capacity building, stands out.
- It is suggested to deepen the survey of experiences to have more data and information for the development of the Strategy.
- The lack of a diversity perspective in the experiences addressed in this first stage is evident.
- The importance of being able to hold face-to-face meetings in the different territories was highlighted. It is suggested to generate several face-to-face instances complemented with directed consultations, public consultations, participation forms, interviews, virtual meetings, and different strategies that broaden and diversify the forms of participation in the elaboration of the ENGDyCC.
- Work with provincial and local agencies and generate governance instances at the provincial and local levels to address climate policies from a gender and diversity perspective.
- The lack of indicators that provide data on which to work was highlighted. It is suggested to prioritize the generation of indicators with a gender and diversity perspective, which are fundamental for the development of the Strategy.

Within the framework of the National Cabinet on Climate Change, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development prepared a joint publication with the Ministry of Women, Gender, and Diversity, which provides an introduction to climate change from a gender and diversity perspective and recognizes intersectionality and interculturality as cross-cutting issues when thinking about climate policies:

- The adaptation to change change from a perspective of gender y diversity:
https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/la_adaptacion_al_cambio_climatico_desde_una_perspectiva_de_gender_y_diversity.pdf

In addition, the National Directorate for Climate Change developed six guides that present fundamental concepts and tools for mainstreaming the gender and diversity perspective in the planning of sectoral climate actions. They also identify the main gender gaps in the different sectors and illustrate, through examples and recommendations, how to incorporate this approach in the design of measures.

The six sectors on which the guidelines were developed are:

- Agriculture and forestry: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_agro_1.pdf
- Health: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_salud_1.pdf
- Industry: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_industria_1.pdf
- Energy: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_energia_1.pdf
- Transportation: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_transporte_2.pdf
- Tourism: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/manual_-_genero_sector_turismo_1.pdf

In conclusion, beyond the difficulty of establishing an exchange at this stage of preparation of the project concept note, we understand that all the information arising from the broad participatory process carried out during 2022, together with the development of guidelines and the National Strategy on Gender, Diversity and Climate Change of Argentina provide valuable inputs that can be considered in the preparation stage of this project.

5. Conclusions

In concluding the consultation process, we can highlight the challenges, opportunities, relevant stakeholders for the project and aspects related to gender, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups that are worth emphasizing.

It should be noted that during the process, and with more emphasis on the consultation workshops hosted by the provinces of Tucumán and La Rioja, the various stakeholders present have commented on ongoing projects or attempts to submit proposals and, in addition, experiences made during the previous MST-GEF project that will be taken up in depth for the Full Proposal process. For example, in the case of the province of La Rioja, the Secretary of the Environment presented a proposal for an intervention site for Component 1 of the project. This proposal will be analyzed in depth for the next stage of the Full Proposal. See ANNEX 2 of this document.

5.1. Challenges in project implementation

- A. Land tenure:** this issue is a general problem in both regions, NOA and CUYO. It was mentioned as a limitation in both consultative spaces, both in the face-to-face workshops and in the virtual interviews with different stakeholders.

In addition to the conflict it generates, this limitation is directly related to the concrete possibility of executing infrastructure works for the improvement of access to water insofar as it must respond to an administrative order to which a large part of the rural population of these arid zones does not apply. To have the right to irrigation, to install wells, to carry out any type of hydraulic work, it is necessary to formalize land tenure and usufruct.

In this regard, the need to move forward with land reorganization and regularization of tenure systems has been emphasized. There are specific national and provincial laws, land-use planning laws and institutions appropriate to this much-demanded problem.

- B. Intersectoral articulation:** communication between the actors involved in the same territory has been reiterated in most of the consultation instances. This is linked to the possibility of developing governance mechanisms, promoting citizen participation and joint planning. Regarding the articulation between different scientific and technological sector organizations, there was a demand for greater linkages to strengthen the production of knowledge oriented to program planning.
- C. Valorization of ancestral practices:** this was identified as one of the keys to responding to the challenges posed by climate change adaptation. The revaluation of knowledge and productive practices is linked to the possibility of making traditional knowledge visible and recognizing it to articulate it with scientific knowledge. The scope of the dialogue of

knowledge for environmental restoration has been optimally agreed upon.

5.2. Project implementation opportunities

- A. Improved access to water: The need to improve access to water at both surface and groundwater levels was seen as an opportunity to expand, develop and recover knowledge of water catchment, retention, and conveyance while at the same time addressing watershed protection.
- B. Capacity building in local communities: this implies both an accompaniment and presence in the territory that allows a full knowledge of the socioeconomic reality of the communities for any type of incorporation and adaptation of new technologies, legal and accounting advice to strengthen the organizations, as well as to make local education and training feasible.

5.3. Relevant stakeholders to join the project

- A. Rural schools: from the consultations carried out, it was possible to identify the importance assigned to educational centers located in rural areas and localities for the implementation of the project. It was emphasized that to make productive development viable, it is necessary to offer rural families the opportunity to stay in the communities and change the migratory trend. In this sense, it is essential to provide the same educational opportunities that exist in the cities and to offer a good quality of life in places such as those that the project intends to impact.
- B. Local communities
- C. Scientific and technical organizations
- D. Private companies

5.4. Gender and Diversity

- A. In terms of gender and diversity, many institutions have been found in the territory that are working on the gender and diversity perspective at the institutional level as well as in their programs and projects. In addition, many of them have extensive and outstanding knowledge of gender and climate change (use of time, gender and production chains, organization of care). They have experience in conducting training cycles, working in coordination with institutions, and mainstreaming the gender perspective in projects.
- B. The Rural Women's Network has a strong work with organizations in the territories and can contribute its experience in the methodology to mainstream the gender perspective in the implementation of the project. They have also worked with INTA, the Gran Chaco Collective Network, the World Bank, Proyungas, and universities.
- C. The National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development – Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation Genders and Diversity are working on "Gender and Diversity". The gender and diversity perspective cuts across the three axes of action that recognize women's and LGBTI+ rights as fundamental to achieving social, environmental and climate justice. These three axes are: i) Sovereignty and autonomy, ii) habitability and iii) care.
- D. They have shared studies and documentation related to Climate Change and Gender that will be of great contribution to this project.

- E. In terms of relevant actors, the organization of "*Defensoras ambientales*", which is in NOA and NEA and are women's organizations accustomed to formulating climate change strategies with a logic of environmental justice, was highlighted.
- F. The topics that are of interest for your attention are:
- i. Access to and management of water is one of the three main demands of the communities of the territory and the NOA.
 - ii. Women's access to financing: Seek investments and encourage women to participate more actively in other areas of the project. To promote political participation in decision-making spaces, so that there is gender balance.
 - iii. Mechanisms for participation and decision making in the formulation of strategies and their implementation.
 - iv. To make women visible, to leverage those who are in more masculinized sectors and to transform them into active actors.
 - v. To have gender-sensitive data and indicators to design specific strategies to reduce existing gaps.
 - vi. Work with provincial and local agencies and generate governance instances at the provincial and local levels to address climate policies from a gender and diversity perspective.
 - vii. It has also been mentioned that in the Calchaquí Valleys there are the United Communities of Mills (La CUM) of the Luracatao Valley, which brings together several communities, with the presence of women's groups that have a collective weaving brand.
 - viii. In an interview with APN, they explain that many of the inhabitants live alone, are isolated and many are not formally organized, and live in the headwaters of watersheds in very fragile areas.

5.5. Indigenous peoples

- A. The CPI is the area within the INAI in charge of accompanying the consultation processes. They can dialogue with the communities and support the consultation process as well as the Indigenous Community Development Directorate.
- B. In Argentina there are approximately 1,800 to 2,000 native communities, of which only 1,000 are georeferenced. Of these, 90 are in the Puna, 16 in the Calchaquí valleys (although it is worth considering that the Diaguitas in Tucumán have a different way of organizing themselves because a community has several base communities, therefore, it would be approximately 50 base communities). In the south of San Juan there are 4 identified communities (georeferences). In Catamarca there are no identified native communities.
- C. INAI has a framework cooperation agreement in force with INTA through which they are working on intercultural issues. They also work with the MAyDS, but the relationship is less fluid at the political level.
- D. INAI has reports and working materials on indigenous peoples and Climate Change. These were prepared within the framework of Intercultural Dialogues as a space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between representatives of organizations and communities of indigenous peoples and technical teams of the National Directorate of Climate Change with the aim of making visible the perspective of indigenous peoples on climate

change.

- E. At the in-person workshop held in Tucumán, indigenous technician Esteban Carvajal mentioned the existing limitations regarding land ownership, protection of water basins and excessive real estate growth in the NOA region.
- F. At the face-to-face workshop held in La Rioja, authorities from Mapuche and Huarpe community organizations from the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan presented the Kume Matru enterprise, a product of the previous MST Noa Cuyo project, which is a collective brand that markets goat meat.
- G. The topics that are of interest for your attention are:
 - A. The need for an intercultural perspective that considers ethnic diversity, both by recognizing traditional and ancestral knowledge and practices in the management of goods and resources, and by considering linguistic diversity when carrying out campaigns, workshops, training and capacity building.
 - B. Identify with the communities and NACI the demands and solutions they raise.
 - C. NARI expressed concern as to whether the project will work on water management for human consumption and/or productive consumption.
 - D. To analyze the status of local governments and their relationship with indigenous communities.
 - E. They stated that it is essential to seek roots in the territories and work with young people.
 - F. Participants from the Cuyo region also raised the need to strengthen the articulation of pilot experiences among local and indigenous communities, small producers, SMEs, and companies, as well as intersectoral dialogue and ancestral knowledge and scientific productions.
- G. Land tenure and the issue of community ownership; overexploitation of aquifers; the need for technical, legal, and accounting assistance closer to the territories; and the development of communication systems and new technologies that can be adapted to the socioeconomic reality of the communities.

5.6. Other vulnerable groups

The consultation and socialization process highlighted the importance of considering young people (both men and women), mainly linked to promoting the rooting and permanence of young people in rural areas by offering development opportunities, together with older adults, linked to the recognition of ancestral knowledge and practices. These age groups are not usually identified as target population and therefore participation as addressees.

Both age groups are often excluded from the benefits of the project because no distinction is made regarding their demands, nor are the contributions that these groups can make to the projects considered. In this way, projects are mainly aimed at the adult age group, which is the most involved in productive activities. These approaches make young people and older adults invisible and, therefore, increase exclusion gaps by not generating strategies that allow their involvement in the projects.

Therefore, it is important to incorporate targeted attention to the vulnerable population, not only in terms of gender, diversity and interculturality, but also by age group. In this context, in one of the interviews conducted with INTA, it was pointed out that family farming is the most vulnerable link, as they do not have access to groundwater and have no chance of expanding the cultivated area due to the subdivision of plots and the stagnation and reduction of surface water. They

have fewer tools to cope with the consequences of climate change.

6. ANNEX 1. List of Participants in Face-to-Face Workshops

Workshop in Tucumán

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hFKzOYDYMhZmo_D2og5iBemjOvGIOMhC/view?usp=drive_link

Workshop in La Rioja

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n-SnKB0sIWpJ_W2btWS5X9MfwguwqVk8/view?usp=drive_link

7. ANNEX 2. Proposed intervention site in La Rioja



7.1.1. NATURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVIEW OF THE VALLEY OF ANTICO LOS COLORADOS - LA RIOJA

Socioeconomic and cultural characterization and main rural production systems:

The Antinaco Valley - Los Colorados is the most important valley in the province, both in terms of population and agricultural production. It is located in the Departments of Chilecito, Famatina, and Independencia; with a population of 60,175 inhabitants, 6,961 inhabitants, and 2,405 inhabitants, respectively. This represents 18% of the provincial population, making Chilecito the second most populated department in the province after the Capital Department (National Census of Population, Homes, and Dwellings, 2022). Focusing on the data for the Department of Chilecito, 88% of the total population resides in urban areas, with only 12% living in rural areas. This is noteworthy considering that the primary source of income for the region comes from agricultural production and agribusiness.

In terms of productive infrastructure, the region has rural electrification and gas stations in the towns of Nonogasta and Chilecito. Gas is supplied solely through bottled gas. Notably, there is a currently operational photovoltaic energy generation park in the town of Nonogasta, boasting a generation capacity of 35 megawatts. This energy is injected into the National Interconnected System.

The road network comprises provincial route N° 74, running north south through the valley, connecting with national route N° 40 near Nonogasta, which comes from the north (Catamarca) and connects the region westward to the Bermejo Valley and the province of San Juan. To the south, this route extends and connects with National Route 38, providing access to the capital city and the province of Córdoba. A new road under construction will link the valley with the provincial capital, reducing distances by approximately 50%.

The productive system is characterized by agricultural development relying on the nivoglacial contribution of rivers descending from the mountain range and foothills, along with the progressively accumulated subsoil water (Villagra et al. 2004). The primary

crops include olives, grapes, walnuts, and, to a lesser extent, other fruits, and vegetables. A significant portion of the production is utilized locally for the manufacturing of oils, beverages, and other products. This new productive model received a substantial boost with the implementation of National Law 22.021 for Economic Promotion in the 1980s, coupled with investments from extra-provincial capitals. However, a challenge emerged as many enterprises established during that period were eventually abandoned, with some of them being reclaimed by new companies today. The issue with this form of economic promotion was the resultant environmental damage, as cleared plots were often left abandoned, exposing the bare soil to erosive factors like wind and water.

Throughout the valley, the characterization of agricultural ventures allows for the differentiation between small and medium-sized producers, primarily relying on runoff water irrigation and tending to be less technified, and large producers, relying on groundwater irrigation and highly technified. Large enterprises have access to innovative technologies, while small and medium-sized ones do not, except for knowledge and technology transfer from public research and development (R&D) organizations.

Traditional producers have the following characteristics:

- Properties of less than 5 ha.
- The average age of producers is over 60 years old.
- They are characterized by employing a minimum of extra-family labor, with the father of the family maintaining the management and supervision of the establishment.
- Arauco variety for table olive processing.
- Vine, for raisin, table or wine.
- To a lesser extent stone fruits and vegetables.
- Pour-flow and flood irrigation.

The settlers, although traditional producers with an area ranging from 10 to 50 hectares, and the companies, equipped with subsoil water and pressurized irrigation systems, achieve greater integration in the production process by incorporating permanent labor and technology. They have also adopted new varieties of olives such as Arbequina, Frantoio, Barnea, Manzanilla, Picual, Coratina, among others.

The occupation of land for agriculture occurred at different times and under a regime of incentives granted by the State. The first political and economic impulse in the valley, allowing the expansion of agriculture and the incorporation of technology, was facilitated by National Law No. 17,424 passed in 1967. This law originated, among other factors, in the request of the then Governor Guillermo Iribarren (Federal Comptroller), who urgently presented the national authorities with the 'Immediate Action Plan,' focusing on two main objectives:

- Promote an important Public Works Plan with extra co-participatory resources; and,
- A fiscal tool with tax incentives to achieve the establishment of capital.

Chilecito benefitted the most from the 'Colonization Plan' implemented by the provincial government. Under this plan, Colonies (C.A.3-C.A.4 and C.A.5) were established, equipped with leveled land, a house, and a shed for each producer, Cimalco irrigation (a technological advancement that replaced canals and irrigation ditches with asbestos-cement pipes for more efficient irrigation), and an allocation of 25 hectares per producer.

During the period 1973-1976, due to a policy focused on agricultural development and capital accumulation, the Plan had its most significant impact in this region. It facilitated the settlement of families of agricultural settlers, primarily from the provinces of San Juan, Mendoza, and Córdoba, who were of Italian and Spanish descent. This led to the creation of a dominant class of fruit and vegetable producers and agro-industrialists.

Among the most important impacts are the following:

- Strong development of fruit production, mainly stone fruit such as peaches, plums and apricots, and vegetables such as onions, peppers, and tomatoes for industrial use.
- The Cooperative for Fruit and Vegetable Industrialization (COFILAR) was established, led by producers who utilized the industrial plant provided by the provincial government. They processed fruit and vegetable products, including juices, jams, jellies, sauces, etc., for both the national and international markets, gaining recognition for their high quality and prestige. (Nowadays Agro Andina Sapem).
- Strong wine development in the domestic white wine market with the Torrontés Riojano varietal.
- The expansion of the National Water and Energy Thermal Power Plant in Chilecito, along with the lowering station in Nonogasta, included the construction of 66/13.2 kV transformer substations and primary power distribution lines for the agricultural colonies of Vichigasta and La Puerta. This comprehensive project facilitated rural electrification in the CA3, CA4, and CA5 plots, supplying power to wells for subway water extraction and ensuring a continuous energy supply to the town of Vichigasta

Subsequently, as mentioned earlier, in 1979, Law No. 22,021 was enacted—the Law for the Economic Development of La Rioja. Under its protection, there was a significant expansion of irrigated crops and the development of agri-food chains. These actions played a crucial role in economic development and job creation, and their impact continues to be felt to the present day. Numerous companies were established on both sides of National Route 74, stretching from Catinzaco to the vicinity of Nonogasta, each with its own distinctive features:

- Purchase and sale of land in the private sector.
- Incorporation of high technology in conduction and crop implantation systems and the irrigation system by drip.
- Incorporation of professionals to the management systems.
- Incorporation of new species and varieties in olive, grape, and jojoba cultivation.
- Greater integration of the production chain by including the processing and industrialization of their own products.
- Currently, the main productions include grapes for wine and raisins, as well as olives for table olives and olive oil production.

In recent years, there has been a significant concentration of companies due to new investors and established businesses. The Vichigasta district, estimating the largest cultivated area with olive trees in the province (13,000 hectares), has become a major player in this industry, with an estimated export value ranging between 10-12,000,000 USD. These exports reach various countries, including Canada, the USA, China, Spain, South Africa, and neighboring regions.

While agriculture, whether technified or traditional, remains the predominant economic activity, it is not the sole one. Livestock raising is prevalent on a family scale, primarily subsistence farming, focusing on goats, cattle, and, to a lesser extent, sheep. Typically carried out extensively with minimal infrastructure and technology, there is a growing trend of larger farms encroaching on the natural vegetation of scrubland and pastureland. This encroachment is causing conflicts with communal grazing areas historically used by cattle ranchers, leading to the fencing of passages and access points to watering places. This agricultural expansion is even occurring within the limits of the Provincial Multiple Use Reserve of Vichigasta (ResPUM). The community has responded with mobilization, participatory management plan development for the protected area, and subsequent social efforts to generate agreements that balance economic development with environmental and social sustainability.

Another significant economic activity in the region is brick production, traditionally utilizing local firewood (carob trees) for kiln fuel, which has transitioned to olive tree pruning residues and other forest residues from large-scale enterprises. Additionally, the area engages in the production of dried fruits (raisins) and olives for table consumption. To a lesser extent, there are activities like handicrafts, saddlery, and non-timber forest resources for producing food items such as patay, arropes, liquors, honey, among others.

Mining has historically played a crucial role in the area's land use. In the high pedemonte sector, wolframite mining was prevalent, with several abandoned mines still present today. The El Chacho mining group, located in the Vichigasta area, represents the most exploited deposit. It covered 11 belongings (66 ha) corresponding to the mines "El Chacho," "Fiorentina," "Esperanza," and "El Águila," situated in the Vichigasta ravine at 2,200 meters above sea level. Although these mines are currently abandoned, the road leading to the tunnels is still accessible under specific conditions (Angelelli V. 1984).

Currently, carob flour is experiencing a resurgence in popularity among regional products, thanks to numerous projects undertaken by various institutions in the region. Although it is still in its early stages, carob flour has the potential for both human and fodder food. From what has been described above, several productive strata coexist in the valley:

- Large and medium-sized technified producers: Employing irrigation technification, utilizing subway water, applying fertilizers; some engage in secondary processing of their production, primarily olive oil and wines, and have access to credit.
- Small and medium-sized traditional producers: Lack of technification, relying on surface water irrigation without access to credit; they supply their production to cooperatives in the departmental capital city (Chilecito) or the local market. In some cases, they engage in artisanal processing of their products, such as table olives, raisins, and wines. This group also includes livestock farmers, bricklayers, and artisans.

The common problem for all of them is the water resource. While it may not currently pose a problem for large producers, it is anticipated to lead to a significant increase in production costs in the near future. For traditional producers, it is presently a limiting factor. In this regard, the Irrigators' Consortium (CUA) and the Provincial Water Authority (IPALaR) are crucial:

- The first functions as a grassroots organization representing traditional producers. They should mobilize to pursue their own interests and capitalize on the opportunities that this project can provide for the enhancement and optimization of the irrigation system, yielding positive results in the short and medium term.
- The second operates as a regulatory body tasked with reviewing the water distribution policy and the granting of well permits. This is crucial in addressing the complex issue of competition for the resource, ensuring the maintenance of productive conditions over time.

Analysis of local capabilities (Institutions and Organizations)

In the region, there is a diversity of institutions and organizations at the municipal, provincial, and national levels, as well as civil organizations that promote citizen participation, productive associativism, cooperation, and the transfer of technology and knowledge related to rural development.

The National University of Chilecito (UNdeC) and INTA, with its experimental station in Tilimuqui, play a prominent role in scientific and technological development and the transfer of knowledge. The National Institute of Family, Peasant, and Indigenous Agriculture also plays a crucial role, providing training services to small producers, helping traditional producers and artisans improve their practices, diversify production, and add value to their products. This aims to reduce pressure on the environment without compromising their economic performance. Three secondary agro-technical schools distributed throughout the valley contribute to the potential for theoretical and practical knowledge among the younger population. Various civil or mixed organizations, such as clusters, are expected to play a role in adapting practices related to water use. Producers' associations and cooperatives vary in structure, size, and productive capacity, with the La Riojana Cooperative standing out for its ability to transfer technology to traditional producers and supply inputs. Additionally, there are clusters like the Olive Cluster, which brings together technified producers and competent state agencies, and the Walnut Cluster. On the other end of the spectrum, neighboring cooperatives for tourism development and water user consortiums are intermediate institutions of great value in the management and decision-making related to natural resources.

Problems identified in the region

The natural ecosystems of La Rioja, like those across the globe, have undergone significant changes in land cover and land use over the past 50 years. The expansion of agriculture has been a major driver of these changes, resulting in habitat loss, fragmentation of natural ecosystems, soil degradation, and emerging as the primary threat to biodiversity.

Despite the ecological importance of native forests for functions such as biodiversity conservation, soil preservation, water quality, water regulation, and greenhouse gas absorption (Villagra et al. 2004), the Antinaco - Los Colorados Valley, including the ATP, has experienced excessive extraction of forest mass. This, coupled with unplanned agricultural expansion, has led to increased land alteration and erosive processes, contributing to the risk of desertification.

Given the climatic conditions necessitating irrigation for agricultural expansion, the distribution and utilization of water resources have become a limiting factor for production and a source of conflict among neighbors. The unplanned agricultural development has also impacted the water table behavior. Monitoring conducted by INA-CRAS until 2006 indicated a deepening of static levels due to intensive pumping, with warnings that uncontrolled expansion of the productive surface area could further exacerbate the situation. Subsequent surveys by INTA reveal a continuing annual increase in the rate of deepening, albeit at a slower pace, aligning with the expansion of cultivated areas. In regions like Vichigasta and Catinzaco, in addition to the drop in water levels, there are issues of groundwater salinization due to the return of excess irrigation containing fertilizers and the disposal of agro-industrial effluents.

Even though groundwater resources are currently being exploited beyond strictly sustainable levels, given the current recharge magnitudes, the considerable volume of water stored in the basin suggests that, with controlled extraction, the average annual decrease rates will likely be mitigated over time. Ultimately, the regulation of groundwater exploitation in the short and medium term will be influenced by the evolution of operating costs and the profitability of agricultural enterprises (Report "JAIME-ELIS adjustment and prediction program, Chilecito, Province of La Rioja," Pellegrino, Javier, CRAS P-104, 1976) (In Poblete M. et.al.). On the other hand, traditional producers manage water resources through the Water Users Consortium (CUA), utilizing the "estancada" allocation system (equivalent to a water pond). Each producer is allocated a volume corresponding to 8 estancadas, with a shift occurring every 60 days or more.

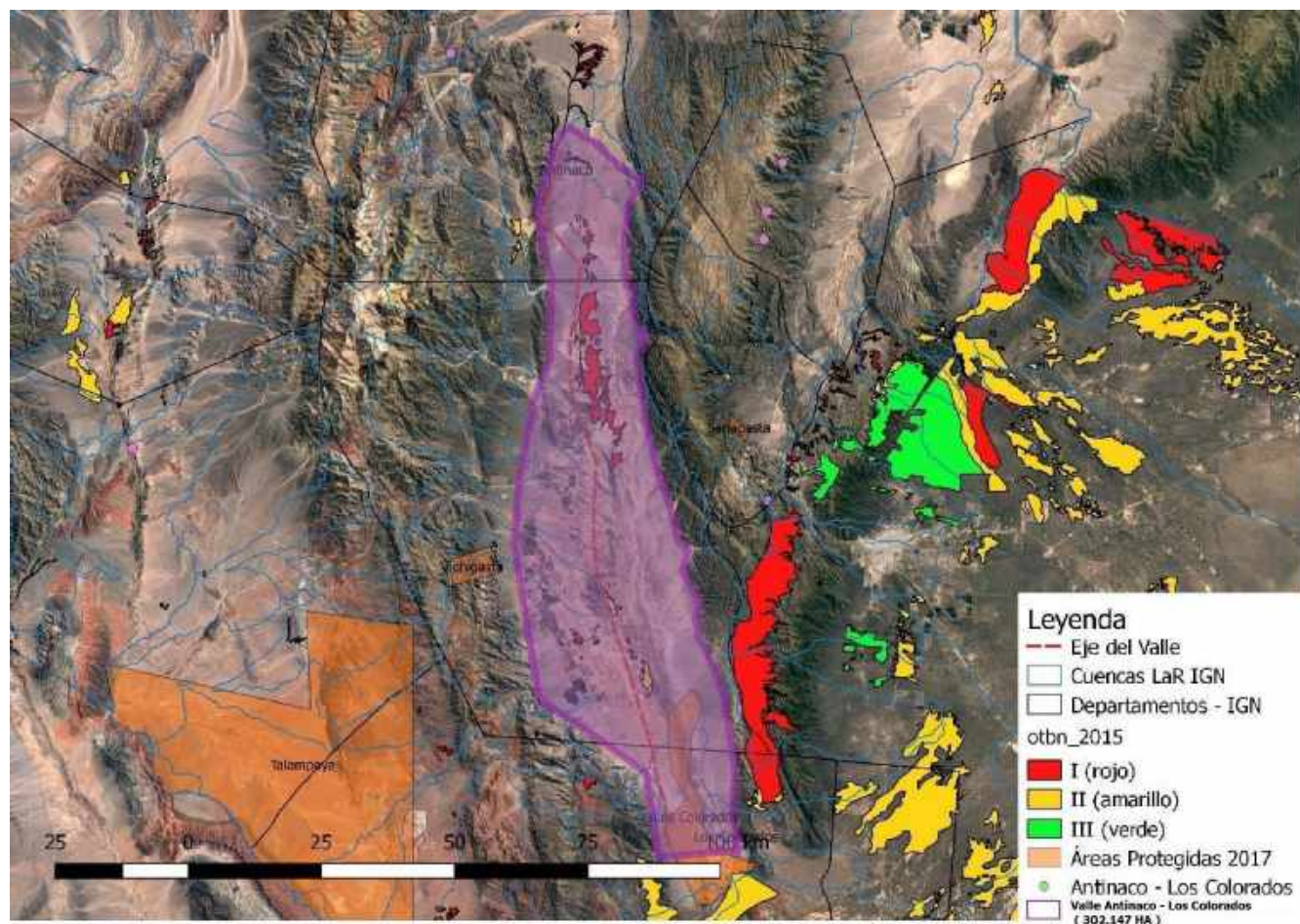
The administration of water through the consortium entails certain difficulties:

- a) The high percentage of smallholdings in the area makes it difficult to carry out various works and/or projects.
- b) The scarce availability of surface water,
- c) Impossibility of establishing a payment quota for the service, given the limited size of their properties.
- d) Most of the owners, occupants of the rural properties, carry out extra-industrial tasks in the colonization zone (Torres N.2006).

The Consortium faces challenges in self-management, as it does not charge users any fees, leading to economic dependence on the provincial government for funds to maintain and operate the service. Additionally, user resistance to organizational change and a lack of awareness regarding the true economic and social value of the resource contribute to the Consortium's inefficiency in terms of conduction and distribution. Addressing these issues requires collaborative efforts between the consortiums, IPALAR, and a commitment to responsible resource use by producers.

The designation of the area as a Provincial Multiple Use Reserve (ResPUM) through legislation represents a political decision aimed at conserving natural resources, preserving ecological services, and safeguarding the productive resources of the traditional inhabitants. This action is complemented by the implementation of the OTBN in the area.

Antina Valley





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Av. Leguizamo 800 - San Miguel de Tucumán

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