SINGLE COUNTRY/ REGIONAL INNOVATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: **Harvesting Resilience and Innovation: Youth and Women Leading Climate Adaptation in Costa Rica**

Country/ Countries: Costa Rica

Thematic Focal Area[1]: Social Innovation and Agriculture

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), universities (UCR, UTN, TEC, UNED, CONARE), INTA, INA, Agricultural Technical Colleges CTP, NGO´s, local organization, other.

Amount of Financing Requested: 5,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project / Programme Background and Context:

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

Costa Rica, recognized worldwide for its biodiversity and environmental leadership, faces critical challenges in its agricultural sector due to climate change, demographic transformation, and pressure on natural resources.

Climate vulnerability and risk to agricultural production:

The agricultural sector, which accounts for 6.4% of the national GDP, is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. According to the National Meteorological Institute (IMN), 70% of producing districts face

[1] Thematic areas are: Agriculture, Coastal Zone Management, Disaster risk reduction, Food security, Forests, Human health, Innovative climate finance , Marine and Fisheries, Nature-based solutions and ecosystem based adaptation, Protection and enhancement of cultural heritage, Social innovation, Rural development, Urban adaptation, Water management, Wildfire Management.

droughts, floods, or pests exacerbated by the climate, with estimated annual losses of $100 million. Losses in staple crops (rice, beans, corn) exceed 30% in years of extreme phenomena such as El Niño (MAG, 2022), increasing dependence on imports. The average temperature has increased by 1°C in 30 years, altering production cycles and spreading pests such as the yellow dragon in citrus fruits or rust in coffee (Estado de la Nacion, 2023). According to IMN projections, even in conservative scenarios such as RCP2.6, significant changes in temperature and rainfall are expected throughout the country in the short and medium term, as shown in Figures 1 (a and b) and 2 (a and b) below.

Figure 1: Change in average annual temperature in the (A) short term (2010-2039) and (B) long term (2070-2099) using the RCP2.6 emissions scenario, compared to the control climate (1961-1990). Source: IMN, 2021

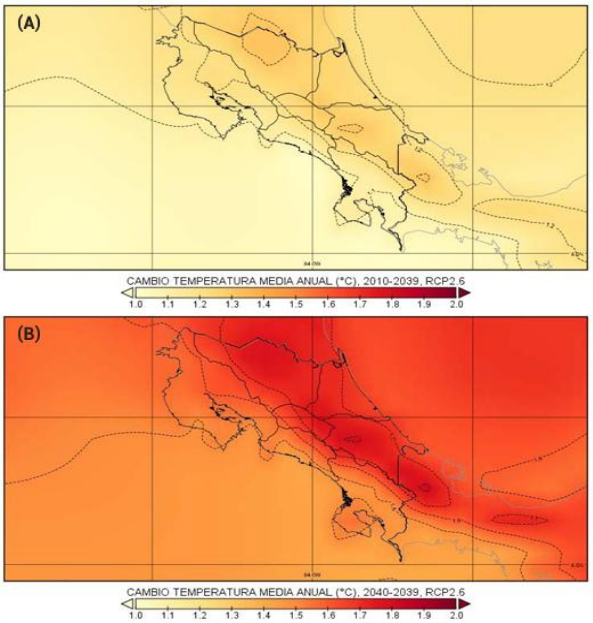
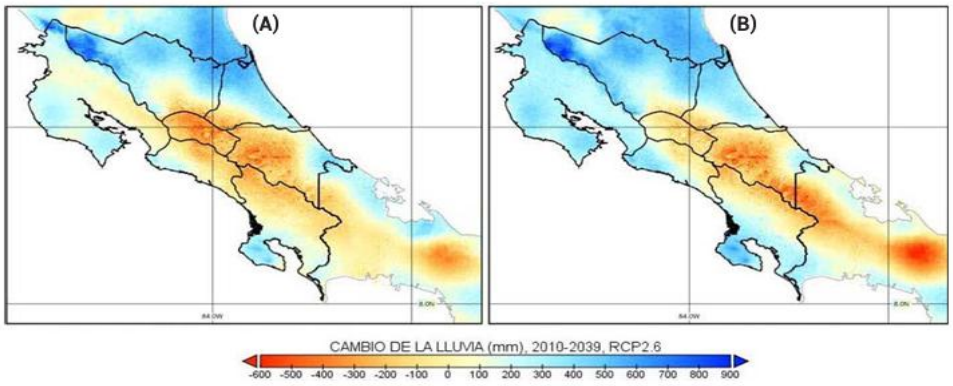


Figure 2: Change in average annual rainfall (mm) in the (A) short term (2010–2039) and (B) long term (2070–2099) using the RCP2.6 emissions scenario, compared to the control climate (1961–1990). Source: IMN, 2021.



In addition, the country faces the dichotomy of experiencing both negative effects from excessive rainfall and drought in other areas, with a significant impact on the appropriate decisions to be made by the agricultural sector to implement adaptation measures. To address these challenges, tailored solutions must be developed based on the unique agroecological conditions of each zone. The table

below summarizes the key characteristics, risks, and innovation opportunities across Costa Rica's major agroecological regions, providing a strategic framework for climate-resilient agriculture.

Agroecological Zone	Key Regions	Climate Risks	Innovation Challenges and Opportunities
Tropical Lowlands	Guanacaste, Puntarenas, Limon	Droughts (Pacific), flooding (Caribbean) coastal degradation, Coastal salinity intrusion	Drought-resistant crops, agroforestry, rainwater harvesting, water management, efficient irrigation, soil sensors, precision agriculture, silvopastoral systems, community innovation schemes, circular bioeconomy
Central Valley	Cartago, Heredia	Erratic rainfall, soil degradation, rivers overflow, temperature rises, biodiversity loss	Climate-smart crops, urban agriculture, biochar, water management, soil sensors, precision agriculture, circular bioeconomy
Northern Plains	Upala, San Carlos, Sarapiquí	Flooding, pests, changes in rain patterns	Flood-tolerant crops, silvopastoral systems, drainage solutions, pest management, drainage systems, Early warning systems, circular bioeconomy
High-Altitude Zones	Los Santos, Puriscal, Northern Cartago cantons	soil degradation, landslides, water scarcity, frost risks, biodiversity loss	Terrace farming, cold-resistant crops, seeds and soil conservation, water management, soil sensors, precision agriculture, circular bioeconomy
Humid Tropics (incl. Coasts)	Osa Peninsula, Caribbean zone	Flooding, coastal and soil degradation, Coastal salinity intrusion	Flood-tolerant crops, silvopastoral systems, seeds and soil conservation, pest management, drainage systems, Early warning systems, community innovation schemes, circular bioeconomy

Loss of Agricultural Land and Food Security

The country, where 23.2% of the territory is used for agricultural activities (SEPSA, 2023), suffers an annual loss of 10,000 hectares of agricultural land due to changes in land use for urban development, tourism, or non-food monocultures (State of the Nation, 2022), threatening food security (currently, 47% of the food consumed is imported, MAG, 2023).

Currently, only 53% of the food consumed is produced domestically (MAG, 2023), with a basic food basket increasingly dependent on imports (beans: 60%, corn: 80%).

Forty percent of small farms (<5 ha) are at risk of disappearing due to lack of profitability (State of the Nation, 2022), affecting 48,000 families.

Generational crisis, technological and cultural gaps, and rural abandonment

The agricultural sector faces a serious intergenerational disconnect, exacerbated by factors such as:

- Average age of farmers: 55 years old, with only 12% of young people under 35 active in the countryside (Agricultural Census, 2023).
- 65% of farmers are reluctant to adopt sustainable technologies or practices due to tradition or lack of access to training (INTA, 2023).
- Rural-urban migration: Each year, 15,000 people leave rural areas (INEC, 2023) due to lack of opportunities and the stigma associated with agricultural work.
- Migration from rural areas to urban areas is growing at a rate of 2.5% per year, emptying key territories.
- Rural youth unemployment (30%) vs. national unemployment (22%), with young rural women at a greater disadvantage (35% unemployment) (Continuous Employment Survey, 2023).

- Rural women are underrepresented: Although they manage 35% of farms, only 15% own land and have 33% less access to credit (FAO, 2023). However, they play a key role in knowledge transfer and adaptive innovation.
- Ancestral knowledge at risk: Techniques such as the Bribri agroforestry systems, the Boruca “chagüite”, and water harvesting in the Chorotega culture are being lost due to migration and a lack of generational integration.
- Rural youth face a lack of access to technical agricultural education: Only 3 out of 10 rural youth manage to receive training in agricultural topics, due to the scarcity of specialized educational offerings (State of Education, 2022).
- There is a strong stigma attached to agricultural work: Perception that the countryside is “going backwards” or a “last resort” (Rural Youth Survey, UCR 2022).
- Rural youth have limited access to land: 70% of farms are inherited, but young people prefer to sell them due to a lack of support to modernize them (SEPSA, 2023).
- Lack of financing for rural youth: 80% of agricultural youth enterprises do not have access to credit due to lack of collateral (Development Bank, 2023).
- Intergenerational resistance: 65% of young people who try to innovate on family farms face rejection from older generations (INTA, 2023).
- 40% of rural youth are unaware of climate-smart practices, despite being the group most affected by droughts or floods (Youth and Climate Change Report, Minae 2023). However, according to a study by UCR and MAG, 35% of rural youth are interested in agriculture 4.0, drones, agricultural apps, or bio-inputs (UCR-MAG Study, 2023).
- Therefore, there is untapped potential: in the bioeconomy (the country has more than 500 underutilized native species such as pejibaye, tiquizque, sweet potato, and others that could diversify production), in ancestral knowledge (such as indigenous agroforestry or holistic water management), and in emerging technologies (precision agriculture, bio-inputs) could be combined to revitalize the sector.

Women's participation in Costa Rica's agricultural sector

Women's active participation in the country's agricultural sector is significant, but they face barriers such as technical assistance, access to credit, land, or markets, which limits their participation in decision-making both on family farms and at the community level.

This translates into the following statements according to data from FAO and UNDP in Costa Rica (UNDP, 2024), based on data from the 2023 Agricultural Census (INEC, 2023)

- In agriculture and climate action, only 15.6% of agricultural producers are women, who manage 8.1% of agricultural land.
- Only 42% of women own the land they work, despite playing an active role in the productive activities they carry out.
- 3.1% of farms run by women receive technical assistance from institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; and since 2016, they have been integrated into more formal training programs. However, in many cases, these programs are not tailored to their needs, leaving at least 75% of these women out of the loop.
- 85% of women do not receive any financial compensation for their agricultural work, so they must seek other sources of financing. However, only 38.4% of women's organizations can access credit offered (MAG, 2020) by other organizations or traditional banks, creating a greater economic gap in farm development.

- Another detail to consider is that women can spend up to 23 hours per week on domestic work and family care (INEC, 2022), which involves a greater workload and less time to devote to their economic activities.
- In terms of decision-making, 16% of women hold positions on the boards of directors of livestock organizations, indicating that there is still a long way to go to achieve gender parity in these spaces.

Costa Rica needs a comprehensive model to curb the climate, generational, and food crises in agriculture. This project would not only mitigate climate risks, but also position the country as a hub of ancestral-technological innovation, attracting investment and reducing inequalities. Without action, it is estimated that by 2030, 20% of family farms will disappear, increasing rural poverty, food insecurity, and climate vulnerability.

The country is known for its environmental commitment and natural wealth, but today it faces a crossroads in its agricultural sector. The impact of climate change, the loss of agricultural land, and the abandonment of the countryside are radically transforming production conditions and putting the country's food security at risk. Added to this are deep generational, technological, and gender gaps that hinder the renewal of the sector.

However, there is also a great opportunity. Rural youth and women have enormous potential to lead an agroecological transformation from within their communities, combining ancestral knowledge with new tools and forms of organization. Social innovation not only allows us to tackle climate change, but also to build more just, inclusive, and sustainable processes. Investing in their leadership and in development models built from the ground up is key to restoring the vitality of Costa Rican agriculture and moving toward climate adaptation with a human face.

Project / Programme Objectives:

This project promotes social innovation as a driver of climate change adaptation in rural communities, with a priority focus on young people and women as key players in the process. It also recognizes that resilience is not only built through technology or infrastructure, but also through community ties, ancestral knowledge, and inclusive leadership. Based on this vision, the project promotes collaborative spaces where different generations come together to share experiences, learn together, and co-create solutions adapted to their territories.

The central assumption of the theory of change is: “If intergenerational collaboration (young people/women + older farmers) is fostered through education, participatory innovation, and pilot projects on farms, then small farms will adopt climate-resilient practices, reduce vulnerabilities and ensuring socioeconomic and environmental sustainability.”

The project logic is developed in three connected phases: first, awareness-raising and capacity-building are promoted in workshops that link traditional knowledge and new practices; then, participatory processes are facilitated in innovation laboratories, where women and young people lead the design of solutions, accompanied by a mentoring network; finally, these proposals are validated through pilot projects on family farms, which allow for learning by doing. With this model, the project not only addresses climate challenges, but also strengthens the social fabric, promotes equity, and generates meaningful learning that can be replicated in different rural communities.

Therefore, **the main objective** of the project is to promote a comprehensive innovation model that combines ancestral knowledge and emerging technologies to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of the agricultural sector in the face of climate change, empowering young people and women as protagonists of adaptation and promoting the consolidation of farms as field laboratories for continuous learning and the validation of replicable practices and technologies.

Specific Objectives:

1. Promote the creation of intergenerational spaces for awareness-raising and training that encourage the exchange of traditional knowledge and innovative practices, enhancing the resilience and adaptability of farms to climate change effects.
2. Foster capacity building and active participation in the agricultural sector through innovation labs and mentorship programs that facilitate the exchange of traditional knowledge and the adoption of innovative practices, promoting continuous learning and innovation.
3. Implement innovative practices in the agricultural sector through a comprehensive training model aimed at transforming ideas into operational and replicable solutions for family farms.

Project / Programme Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, outcomes, outputs, and countries in which activities would be executed, and the corresponding budgets. For the case of a programme, individual components are likely to refer to specific sub-sets of stakeholders, regions and/or sectors that can be addressed through a set of well-defined interventions / projects.

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Amount (US$)
1. Awareness raising and capacity building for the exchange of traditional knowledge and innovative practices in climate adaptation.	1.Intergenerational trust and collaboration are strengthened, and the agricultural sector becomes more resilient through the integration of traditional knowledge and innovative practices.	1.1Intergenerational spaces for knowledge exchange, awareness raising, and training are created. 1.2 Participation spaces are created for the structuring of adaptation plans that combine traditional knowledge with new technologies. 1.3 Certified training is provided for people in the agricultural sector, including young people, women, and vulnerable groups, in climate adaptation methodologies, business skills, and technological tools with technical support.	$1 210 000
2. Co-creation of practical solutions and continuous learning through Innovation Labs.	2. Innovation and leadership skills are strengthened, especially among young people, and a mentoring network is consolidated to develop innovation skills.	2.1 Innovation laboratories and mentoring programs are designed and implemented that seek to integrate technical agricultural colleges and universities to promote the transfer of knowledge and use of technology in the application of different sustainable practices and adaptation in the agricultural sector. 2.2 Boot camps are developed for the co-creation and design of rapid solutions and innovative prototypes.	$2 000 000
3. From the laboratory to the farm: Implementation of field prototypes on family farms and	3. Pilot projects are implemented to enable field practice, and the creation of sustainable business plans on	3.1 Pilot projects are implemented for field practice. 3.2 The development of diversified and sustainable business plans is supported,	$1 000 000

dissemination of success stories.	farms with access to financing is promoted. Success stories are also documented and disseminated.	enabling access to financing for the solutions developed. 3.3 Success stories on intergenerational work and the application of traditional knowledge and technology are documented and disseminated in response to the design of adaptation plans on farms and agribusiness models.	
4. Project/Programme Execution cost			$400 000
5. Total Project/Programme Cost			$4 545 000
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			$390 000
Amount of Financing Requested			$5 000 000

Projected Calendar:

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

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	01/07/2026
Mid-term Review (if planned)	01/02/2029
Project/Programme Closing	30/06/2031
Terminal Evaluation	30/01/2032

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

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

This initiative tackles the interconnected crises threatening Costa Rica's smallholder farms by placing climate adaptation at its core. It specifically addresses: (1) intensifying climate vulnerabilities - including prolonged droughts (Guanacaste), erratic rainfall (Central Valley), and soil degradation (mountain zones), flooding (Northern Zone); (2) generational knowledge gaps that hinder adoption of climate-resilient practices; and (3) gender barriers that exclude women from farm decision-making despite their traditional climate adaptation knowledge.

The solution mobilizes youth and women as agents of **climate-smart innovation** through three synergistic approaches: (1) Climate education: Training in drought-resistant crops, water harvesting, and agroforestry systems; (2) Adaptation entrepreneurship: Developing localized solutions for microclimatic challenges; (3) Intergenerational co-creation: Blending traditional ecological knowledge with modern climate technologies

By centering on place-based climate challenges, the initiative ensures innovations directly address, for instance, water scarcity in dry corridors, soil conservation on steep slopes, pest/disease resilience in humid tropics, frost mitigation in highlands, or flooding in low lands.

In addition, small farms in Costa Rica, which are the backbone of rural economies, are predominantly managed by older farmers (average age >55) who are often reluctant to adopt climate adaptation measures due to risk aversion, entrenched practices, or limited exposure to new technologies. At the same time, younger generations, especially those trained in agricultural technical schools and universities, have up-to-date knowledge of sustainable agriculture, digital tools, and climate resilience, but lack opportunities to apply their skills in actual farm management. This disconnect threatens the agricultural sector's ability to adapt to climate change, jeopardizing food security, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.

This project addresses this gap by promoting intergenerational collaboration as a driver of innovation in climate adaptation. Rather than imposing external solutions, it creates structured spaces for young people to contribute their knowledge, while respecting the experience of older farmers.

Actively integrating young people and women (especially those studying agronomy, agroecology, or who have been involved in managing family farms) into agricultural decisions ensures that adaptation strategies are technically sound and culturally valid. This translates into a higher rate of innovation adoption, as producers recognize themselves as co-authors of the solutions and take ownership of them from the outset.

To bring these proposals to the field, the project deploys awareness campaigns, practical training, and “participatory innovation laboratories.” These laboratories serve as experimental spaces where traditional knowledge and modern techniques converge, allowing farmers to test and apply sustainable practices. By strengthening intergenerational dialogue and knowledge exchange, the initiative improves resilience, ensuring that agricultural systems adapt effectively to climate challenges while preserving sociocultural and ecological balance.

Component 1: Awareness raising and capacity building for the exchange of traditional knowledge and innovative practices in climate adaptation. (number of beneficiaries expected in this component: 10 000, aprox 400 capacity building events in all agroecological zones)

This component tackles the project’s specific objective 1: *Promote the creation of intergenerational spaces for awareness-raising and training that encourage the exchange of traditional knowledge and innovative practices, enhancing the resilience and adaptability of farms to climate change effects.*

It is important to note that the term "spaces," as used throughout this component, refers not solely to physical locations but encompasses a wide range of structured and semi-structured interactions. These include dedicated moments, meetings, forums, workshops, working groups (mesas de trabajo), innovation circles, and digital platforms. The fundamental purpose of these diverse spaces is to intentionally foster an environment conducive to co-creation, collaborative learning, and peer-to-peer exchange. This approach ensures that the process of knowledge sharing and capacity building is dynamic, accessible, and adaptable to the needs and contexts of all participants, ultimately strengthening the social fabric and collective innovation capabilities of the communities.

This component lays the groundwork for family farms to adopt climate-resilient practices that combine the experience of older people with the technical knowledge of younger people. It also recognizes that true innovation comes from bringing together the wisdom accumulated over generations and the modern tools provided by younger people. By creating spaces for dialogue and joint learning, a process of appropriation of climate solutions is initiated, where each person not only receives training but also builds and adapts practices to their specific context.

With an inclusive and participatory approach, this component strengthens mutual trust between older people, women, and young people, rescues ancestral soil and water management practices, and introduces low-cost technologies to improve productivity and resilience. In addition, young people and women are introduced to decision-making spaces in the agricultural sector, thus fostering the creation of an active and conscious social fabric capable of designing, validating, and sustaining adaptation plans that respond to local realities and guarantee the continuity of agricultural activity in a more uncertain climate.

The co-creation spaces under Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 serve as critical inputs for Component 2's Innovation Labs by providing the foundational knowledge and community networks needed for solution development. Through institutionalized platforms like community-led "Innovation Circles" (linked to local agricultural associations) and systematic documentation of traditional practices (validated via on-farm trials in component 3), these outputs create a pipeline of context-specific insights that directly feed into the Labs' work. The participatory adaptation plans and sectoral participation forums developed in Output 1.2 ensure the Labs address real community needs while maintaining intergenerational continuity, with women and youth positioned as co-designers rather than passive recipients. This seamless integration between awareness-building (Component 1) and practical innovation (Component 2 and 3) creates a virtuous cycle where traditional knowledge informs modern solutions, and Lab prototypes are continuously refined through feedback from the same community networks established in Component 1 - significantly enhancing both the relevance and sustainability of outcomes.

The project will sustain intergenerational collaboration through complementary role assignments (elders as tradition-bearers, youth as tech-translators), incentivized engagement (honorariums for elders, certifications/seed funding for youth), and structured platforms like monthly Knowledge Fairs and Climate Resilience Teams. Digital archives and joint innovation challenges (e.g., hackathons) will blend ancestral and modern knowledge, while binding reciprocity mechanisms (e.g., youth committing to train others, elders hosting field days) and alumni networks ensure continuity. Participation will be tracked via metrics on co-created solutions, embedding accountability while respecting generational strengths.

The concepts mentioned (“Innovation Circles,” “Knowledge Fairs,” “Climate Resilience Teams,” and the “alumni network”) are formal, structured activities and supporting mechanisms that operationalize the project's strategy. They are not merely illustrative examples; they are the essential platforms and processes designed to ensure the project's sustainability, scalability, and impact. Innovation Circles (linked to Output 1.1 and 1.2) serve as institutionalized platforms for co-creation, tied to local agricultural associations. Knowledge Fairs are recurring events for dissemination and community engagement. Climate Resilience Teams are formal working groups responsible for developing and implementing adaptation plans. The alumni network is a sustaining mechanism for graduates of certified training (Output 1.3), fostering long-term peer support and mentorship. Together, these mechanisms form an interconnected system that transforms isolated activities into a continuous cycle of innovation and learning.

The following activities will be developed as part of this component:

Output 1.1 Intergenerational spaces for knowledge exchange, awareness raising, and training are created. These spaces will be important for raising awareness and promoting knowledge exchange

among older people, young people, and women, thereby strengthening the implementation of traditional and modern climate adaptation practices on family farms.

- **Activity 1.1.1.** Participatory workshops to raise awareness, strengthen practical skills and tools, and map ancestral knowledge and practices.
- **Activity 1.1.2.** Field training activities on farms where veteran farmers demonstrate the application of traditional techniques and on farms with innovative practices.
- **Activity 1.1.3.** Creation of educational and infographic material that compiles traditional and innovative practices for dissemination through various communication channels.

Output 1.2 Participation spaces are created for the structuring of adaptation plans that combine traditional knowledge with new technologies.

- **Activity 1.2.1.** Creation of spaces for active participation in different communities and trade associations in the agricultural sector.
- **Activity 1.2.2.** Design of adaptation plans with an intergenerational approach, combining ancestral knowledge with new technologies.
- **Activity 1.2.3.** Support and technical validation in the creation of adaptation plans based on the information gathered in different communities.

Output 1.3 provides a more structured and formalized training path compared to the open knowledge-exchange forums of Output 1.1. While Output 1.1 focuses on general awareness-raising, participatory workshops, and field demonstrations to foster broad-based dialogue and initial skill strengthening, Output 1.3 is designed for in-depth, curriculum-based learning. These certified trainings involve formal modules, hands-on technical practice, and a clear evaluation process to assess knowledge acquisition. Consequently, successful completion results in a certificate of approval, validating a defined level of proficiency in specific climate adaptation methodologies, business skills, and technological tools, thereby equipping participants for leadership and technical roles within their communities.

Output 1.3 Certified training is provided for people in the agricultural sector, including young people, women, and vulnerable groups, in climate adaptation methodologies, business skills, and technological tools with technical support.

- **Activity 1.3.1.** Training modules, such as climate adaptation, integration of good agricultural practices, implementation of digital tools, among others.
- **Activity 1.3.2.** Hands-on field training at demonstration farms, showcasing applied adaptation practices (e.g., soil moisture conservation, agroforestry systems), technology integration (weather sensors, irrigation apps, drones, climate information systems), gender-responsive climate entrepreneurship models, business skills, among others. This activity differs from 1.1.2 in the sense that this field trainings are more technically structured, and implies certificate of succesfull completion for participants.
- **Activity 1.3.3.** Certification and ongoing mentorship for trainees through: structured mentorship pairings (experienced farmers + youth/women participants), mobile-based knowledge reinforcement (virtual tutorials, troubleshooting support), post-training impact monitoring (adoption rate tracking).

Outcome 1, *Intergenerational trust and collaboration are strengthened, and the agricultural sector becomes more resilient through the integration of traditional knowledge and innovative practices.*

Component 2: Co-creation of practical solutions and continuous learning through Innovation Labs. *(number of beneficiaries expected in this component: 1 000 take active part of labs, at least 2 labs in each agroecological zone to cover a wide variety of climate risks and adaptation solutions)*

This component tackles the project's *specific objective 2: Foster capacity building and active participation in the agricultural sector through innovation labs and mentorship programs that facilitate the exchange of traditional knowledge and the adoption of innovative practices, promoting continuous learning and innovation.*

This component articulates two lines of strategic action, which consolidate an iterative process of designing, generating, and adjusting agroclimatic solutions, focused on developing and strengthening the capacities of beneficiaries, especially young people and women in the agricultural sector.

As part of co-creation and continuous learning, the aim is to establish strategic alliances with different entities and institutions, that would take the role of host institution, serving as the operational hub and knowledge anchor for the Innovation Labs, providing critical infrastructure and technical support to facilitate climate adaptation co-creation, enabling the consolidation of a mentoring network, stakeholder coordination, sustainability planning (beyond project), as well as practical spaces such as Bootcamps, and allow for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, both individually and locally.

Host types are: Technical Colleges (Strong community ties for local youth and farmer engagement), University Campuses (Research capabilities for solution validation), Local NGOs and/or local network (Grassroots legitimacy for marginalized group inclusion). The host institution acts as both a neutral convener and a capacity multiplier, ensuring labs remain embedded in local innovation ecosystems beyond project completion.

The consolidation of these spaces will provide young people and women with tools to help them cope with the impacts of climate change, as well as serving as an autonomous catalyst for continuous learning and technological outreach, capable of mobilizing local resources and accelerating the community's response to extreme events.

The following activities will be developed as part of this component:

Output 2.1 Innovation laboratories and mentoring programs are designed and implemented that seek to integrate Technical Agricultural Colleges and Universities to promote the transfer of knowledge and use of technology in the application of different sustainable practices and adaptation in the agricultural sector.

- **Activity 2.1.1.** Management of strategic alliances with universities, research centers, and Agricultural Technical Colleges.
- **Activity 2.1.2** Design and establishment of innovation laboratories in universities and agricultural technical colleges.
- **Activity 2.1.3.** Definition of thematic content for establishing innovation laboratories, such as technology integration in the agricultural sector, green business modeling in the value chain, design and prototyping, leadership, among others, to enable the development of adaptation actions and plans.
- **Activity 2.1.4.** Design and implementation of a mentoring program to guide mixed teams that include young people, women, and other vulnerable populations in rural areas, combining Design Thinking dynamics and meaningful learning methodologies.
- **Activity 2.1.5.** Implementation of innovation laboratories in universities and technical agricultural colleges, where the previously defined topics are integrated, responding to the geographical context and considering environmental and social aspects.

Output 2.2 Bootcamps are developed for the co-creation and design of rapid solutions and innovative prototypes.

- **Activity 2.2.1.** Design and implementation of boot camps that contribute to the introduction of designs and practices in the field, the use of innovative tools that enable transgenerational work (young people, women, and older people), and enhance creativity for the design of prototypes that contribute to climate resilience, the adoption of new practices, and agroclimatic entrepreneurship.
- **Activity 2.2.2.** Design and implementation of innovation competitions to develop and reward viable solutions for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector.

Outcome 2. *Innovation and leadership skills are strengthened, especially among young people, and a mentoring network is consolidated to develop innovation skills.*

Component 3: From the laboratory to the farm: Implementation of field prototypes on family farms and dissemination of success stories. *(number of beneficiaries expected in this component: 60 adaptation solutions are piloted and implemented, at least 2 in each agroecological zone to cover a wide variety of climate risks, adaptation solutions and opportunities to scale up)*

This component tackles the project's specific objective 3*: Implement innovative practices in the agricultural sector through a comprehensive training model aimed at transforming ideas into operational and replicable solutions for family farms*

This component combines field testing, economic feasibility, and the inspiration generated by success stories to create a comprehensive adaptation model. Pilot projects confirm the climate relevance of each innovation in practice; the design of business plans ensures their financial sustainability; and the dissemination of exemplary experiences allows new farms to quickly adopt proven solutions. Thus, innovation ceases to be a theoretical promise and becomes concrete projects, reaffirming the way in which family farms face climate change.

The following activities will be developed as part of this component:

Output 3.1 Pilot projects are implemented for field practice.

- **Activity 3.1.1.** Selection of pilot projects for field testing.
- **Activity 3.1.2.** Implementation and monitoring of pilot projects on farms.
- **Activity 3.1.3.** Iterative adjustments to pilot projects to ensure their proper implementation in the field and their potential for scaling up and sustainability.

Output 3.2 The development of diversified and sustainable business plans is supported, enabling access to financing for the solutions developed.

- **Activity 3.2.1.** Training and support for the development of business plans.
- **Activity 3.2.2.** Creation of spaces to raise awareness of the different financing options and mechanisms for accessing them.

Output 3.3 Success stories on intergenerational work and the application of traditional knowledge and technology are documented and disseminated in response to the design of adaptation plans on farms and agribusiness models.

- **Activity 3.3.1.** Identification, analysis, and audiovisual documentation of success stories.
- **Activity 3.3.2.** Tours and exchange activities between actors to publicize success stories and promote their scalability and replicability**.**

- **Activity 3.3.3.** Dissemination of success stories on digital platforms and other national and local media outlets.

Outcome 3. *Pilot projects are implemented to enable field practice, and the creation of sustainable business plans on farms with access to financing is promoted. Success stories are also documented and disseminated.*

Project component alignment and selection criteria: The project implements a tiered intervention across Costa Rica's agroecological zones through three aligned components. *Component 1* conducts nationwide capacity-building (10,000 beneficiaries) via institutional partnerships, engaging farmers, youth (through agricultural schools), and women (via rural networks) to prioritize local climate risks while ensuring geographic/demographic representation. *Component 2* establishes innovation labs in technical high schools and university sites in priority zones (e.g., Guanacaste's dry corridor), selecting top Component 1 participants plus new innovators to form diverse teams (1 elder farmer:2 youth:1 woman) that develop context-specific solutions, at least 2 labs per agroecological zone. *Component 3* pilots the 60 most viable prototypes from labs - selected for agroecological fit, climate adaptation potential, feasibility, and inclusion criteria - on representative farms volunteered by Component 2 participants.

In summary, alignment mechanisms between components ensure coherence: (1) *Progressive filtering* from national → zonal → local implementation; (2) *Participatory governance* through local committees (farmers/youth/MAG-local office/host institution) co-designing criteria and prioritizing marginalized groups; (3) *Adaptive feedback loops* where pilot results refine Component 1 training and Component 2 methodologies. This structure maintains strategic focus while enabling localized adaptation and iterative improvement, as well as serving as a base for becoming permanent innovation labs within the host institutions (universities and technical schools).

Approach for Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs): The project will adopt a flexible approach to identify and select specific sub-projects during implementation while ensuring alignment with the Adaptation Fund (AF) objectives. USPs will emerge organically from innovation labs (Component 2) and selected prototypes for pilot projects (Component 3) through proposals submitted by participants.

Regarding selection and prioritization criteria, prototypes and pilot farms are evaluated through a multi-criteria evaluation by technical committees (MAG, universities, farmers, rural networks):

Prototype Selection Criteria for piloting: (1) Agroecological Fit: Must address documented climate vulnerabilities of the target zone and have a potential vulnerability reduction; (2) Implementation Feasibility: Technical simplicity (adaptable to low-tech farm conditions), cost-effectiveness (<$1000 implementation cost for 70% of smallholders); (3) Social Inclusion: Co-designed by women/youth participants, benefits vulnerable groups (indigenous communities, small-scale producers); (4) Scalability Potential: Replicable in similar agroecological zones, compatible with existing extension services and number of potential beneficiaries.

Pilot Farm Selection: (1) Volunteers from Component 2 participants and/or mentors; (2) Must represent average farm characteristics of the zone (size 2-5 ha, dominant crops); (3) Demonstrate willingness to host knowledge-sharing activities and to become demonstration farm for others to learn and to be showcased. Overall selection will consider a balance of women led pilots, as well of relevant participation of vulnerable groups.

All approved USPs will be monitored and documented with justification memos, ensuring full traceability from field identification to implementation.

The project will ensure women's substantive engagement as both innovators and beneficiaries through targeted interventions, including gender-balanced innovation labs (≥50% female participation), women-

led pilot projects, and mentorship networks. To address structural barriers, the initiative will provide childcare support, facilitate access to resources, and challenge cultural norms through community dialogues and male allyship programs. Working closely with host institutions, the project will adopt an intersectional approach to include Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, youth, and persons with disabilities, while tailoring interventions to local contexts. Capacity building will emphasize agri-tech skills and leadership development, supported by robust monitoring using gender-disaggregated data. By aligning with Costa Rica's Gender and Agriculture Plan and collaborating with women's cooperatives, the project will empower women as key drivers of climate-smart innovation alongside youth and other vulnerable groups.

Participant Selection for Inclusive Engagement: Selection criteria will prioritize meaningful participation through: (1) gender balance (minimum 50% women) and youth quotas (30% ages 15-35); (2) proportional representation of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, disabled, and low-income participants; and (3) geographic accessibility for rural residents with accommodations for childcare and disabilities. Additional criteria will focus on (4) livelihood relevance for small-scale farmers and informal workers, (5) leadership potential from local cooperatives, and (6) intersectional diversity across ethnicity and socioeconomic status. These measures will be implemented through transparent scoring systems and community partnerships to ensure equitable selection while mitigating biases. This approach guarantees that vulnerable groups are not merely included but actively shape innovation processes.

The project will ensure indigenous and marginalized groups benefit through culturally adapted activities like community-led workshops in local languages, priority access to Innovation Labs, and tailored training on climate change and biocultural heritage. Support mechanisms include travel stipends, cultural brokers, and accessible materials (visual/audio tools), while equity safeguards feature participatory monitoring with indigenous representatives, affirmative procurement for indigenous businesses. These measures aim to increase adoption of blended traditional-tech practices by 20+%, secure direct resource access, and amplify marginalized voices in climate adaptation through documented success stories - exemplified by initiatives like Boruca women co-developing drone-assisted native maize systems.

B. Describe how the project /programme would promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, such as new approaches, technologies, and mechanisms.

The project proposes a strategic transformation centered on fostering innovation and adaptive learning to enhance climate change resilience in the agricultural sector. It emphasizes a comprehensive approach that integrates formal education, business development, and structured intergenerational collaboration to promote ongoing experimentation, knowledge exchange, and the adoption of new solutions.

By actively involving young people, women, and older generations, the project creates spaces for inclusive participation, decision-making, and knowledge-sharing, which are essential for adaptive learning and innovation. This participatory process aims to foster a resilient, dynamic, and equitable agricultural system capable of continuously evolving in response to climate challenges.

The project advances innovation through the following pillars:

- **Co-creation and Intergenerational Collaboration**: Young people leverage digital skills, technology, and formal education, working directly with older generations who bring traditional knowledge and experience. This integration enables the co-creation of innovative, culturally appropriate solutions that combine new trends with longstanding practices, fostering a continuous learning cycle rooted in practical adaptation.
- **Empowerment and active roles:** Strengthening the participation of young people and women in decision-making processes, especially addressing gender inequality and generational renewal.

This empowers diverse stakeholders to lead adaptive innovation and experiment with new approaches to climate resilience.

- **Adaptive Learning Mechanism:** Linking agricultural education closely with real-world problem-solving on family farms, this mechanism encourages an iterative process where farmers and learners adapt strategies based on ongoing experiences, feedback, and changing climate conditions. It promotes a culture of experimentation, reflection, and continuous improvement.
- **Bridging Theory and Practice:** Connecting academic institutions (CTP, INA, UTN, UCR, TEC, UNA, UNED) with actual farm-level implementation fosters an environment for pilot projects and field-testing of innovative ideas. This mechanism supports the development of culturally sensitive and technically viable solutions that evolve through experiential learning.
- **Youth entrepreneurship and succession in the agricultural sector:** addresses the lack of economic prospects for young people, especially in rural areas. Supporting youth-led agribusinesses (e.g., biofertilizers, agrotourism) introduces new economic opportunities and diversifies income streams. It encourages experimentation with climate-smart practices, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset adaptable to changing environmental conditions.

Through these approaches, the project aims to cultivate a culture of adaptive learning and continuous innovation—enabling smallholder farmers, youth, women, indigenous communities and other stakeholders to effectively respond to climate risks, experiment with new approaches, and adopt technologies and mechanisms that enhance resilience while respecting local contexts.

C. Describe how the project/programme aims to roll out successful innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies and/or describe how the project aims to scale up viable innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies.

The project is designed to effectively develop, implement, and scale innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies within the country's agricultural sector. This will be achieved through a strategic approach that incorporates field validation, capacity building, stakeholder empowerment, and the establishment of clear pathways for adopting these innovations. By integrating climate adaptation solutions into existing learning ecosystems and ensuring sustainability, the project aims to mainstream innovation in agriculture.

Key benefits and mechanisms include:

- **Incentivizing Sector Engagement:** Providing economic incentives and creating new business models that encourage farmers to adopt innovative practices, thereby fostering long-term momentum for climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Educational Linkages:** Building robust connections between agricultural technical colleges, universities, and practice on the ground, facilitating continuous knowledge transfer, and transforming theoretical research into practical, field-ready solutions.
- **Showcasing Success:** Generating and disseminating success stories and best practices to demonstrate the viability and benefits of innovation to the broader agricultural community and other sectors.
- **Promoting Gender and Intergenerational Inclusion:** Addressing gender inequalities and fostering intergenerational collaboration to ensure diverse perspectives and motivated leadership in scaling innovations sustainably.
- **Collaborative Co-Creation:** Engaging youth and elders jointly in decision-making and innovation development, ensuring solutions are contextually appropriate, widely accepted, and easily

replicated across regions. This approach emphasizes that new technologies complement, rather than replace, traditional knowledge, making field implementation smoother.

- **Economic Diversification:** Supporting the creation of new businesses and incubators based on innovative knowledge and field experiences, thus turning innovation into an economic driver that benefits multiple farms and communities.

Through these strategies, the project aims to mainstream successful innovations, facilitating their wider adoption and sustainability across the country's agricultural landscape, ultimately enhancing resilience to climate change.

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

This project aims to generate multifaceted social, economic, and environmental benefits, with particular attention to vulnerable communities and groups, including women and youth, ensuring all interventions align with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

It is designed to produce positive impacts such as social cohesion, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience while proactively implementing measures to prevent or mitigate any adverse effects, ensuring inclusivity, safety, and respect for both human rights and the environment.

Below are key elements of the direct impact that will be seen with the implementation of the project, also aligned with the principles and framework of the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and those of Fundecooperación.

1) Social benefits

a) Knowledge transfer: The project facilitates the sharing of ancestral knowledge and traditional agricultural practices with young people, particularly in rural and vulnerable areas. This approach combines traditional wisdom with innovative adaptation and mitigation strategies, fostering sustainability. It actively strengthens decision-making capacity among women and youth, promoting long-term adoption of innovative practices.

b) Community cohesion: Community cohesion is promoted as a key pillar for adaptation to climate change through spaces for knowledge exchange between producers, as well as collaborative work between neighboring farms, associations, local cooperatives, and other community actors. This collective dynamic not only allows for the exchange of knowledge, but also the effective design and management of natural resources in each community, strengthening the social fabric and the organizational and decision-making capacity of communities. Likewise, generational integration is sought, thus allowing for the design of innovative strategies and solutions that respond to local realities and aspirations.

c) Active participation of young people and women in decision-making: Training and intergenerational work spaces will enable the transfer of ancestral knowledge and wisdom, as well as strengthen decision-making that integrates the vision of new generations and a gender perspective for the design of strategies to improve productive activities on family farms and at the local level.

d) Reduction of digital and knowledge gaps: The project will promote the incorporation of digital technologies in the agricultural sector through training in the use of tools such as meteorological applications, soil sensors, and data management systems. Workshops and training sessions were organized for the agricultural sector population, especially young people and women, which will facilitate access to information and updates on innovative

techniques. This will close the gap between traditional knowledge and modern technology, ensuring that both producers and future innovators have the skills they need to make informed and sustainable decisions.

2) Environmental benefits

a) Enhanced climate resilience: The adoption of both traditional and innovative agricultural practices that strengthen the resilience of family farms to climate change is being promoted. These include the use of crops adapted to extreme conditions such as droughts or heavy rainfall, the implementation of agroecological techniques, and improvements in the efficiency of irrigation systems. The integration of these approaches will enable a timely response to extreme weather events, reduce production losses, and ensure the continuity of rural livelihoods. By combining ancestral knowledge with contemporary technologies, it contributes to the sustainability of local agroecosystems and strengthens the adaptive capacities of participating communities.

3) Economic benefits

a) Diversification of productive activities and improvement in quality of life: Through various training sessions and field activities, participants will acquire and strengthen skills and abilities that will enable them to design innovative strategies to diversify their productive activities and integrate new technologies and methodologies into traditional practices. By diversifying and enhancing these activities, the aim is to improve their economy, as they will be able to access new markets, improving the quality of life for individuals and families.

b) Access to financing: In its final stage, the project seeks to ensure that participants, especially young people, women, and vulnerable populations, have the tools and skills to access different sources of financing, microfinancing and seed capital to boost the growth of their productive activities, thus enabling them to be sustainable over time, and ensuring long-term economic resilience.

Inclusive Participation & Benefits for Vulnerable Groups: The project will ensure indigenous and marginalized groups benefit through culturally tailored activities: community-led workshops in local languages, priority access (30% reserved spaces) to Innovation Labs, and training blending traditional knowledge with climate adaptation tools. Support mechanisms include travel stipends, cultural brokers, and accessible materials (audio/visual tools), while equity safeguards feature participatory monitoring by indigenous representatives and affirmative procurement from marginalized-owned businesses. These measures target a 20%+ increase in adoption of co-designed solutions (e.g., Boruca women's drone-assisted native maize systems) and direct resource access.

Selection & Sustained Engagement: Participant selection prioritizes: (1) gender balance (50% women, 30% youth 15–35); (2) intersectional representation (Indigenous, Afro-descendant, disabled participants); and (3) livelihood relevance for small-scale farmers. Intergenerational collaboration (Component 1) is sustained through Role-based partnerships (Elders as "tradition-bearers," youth as "tech-translators"), Incentives (Honorariums for elders, seed funding/certifications for youth), Structured platforms (periodical "Knowledge Fairs" and digital archives co-created by both groups), Accountability (Tracked joint innovation metrics and binding reciprocity, e.g., youth commit to training peers, elders host field days).

4) Mitigation of Negative Impacts

The project incorporates gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches to ensure all interventions are equitable and culturally appropriate. It will also conduct environmental and social risk assessments

at each stage, adhering to the policies of the Adaptation Fund, and establishing safeguards to prevent adverse impacts, including social exclusion, environmental degradation, or effects on public health, among other ESP principes. Ongoing monitoring and participatory feedback mechanisms will ensure adaptive management and continuous mitigation of potential risks.

An initial gender assessment is included in Annex 1. Main findings include that Costa Rica's rural agricultural sector faces significant gender inequalities, exacerbated by climate change. Women, though central to small-scale farming and traditional knowledge, often lack land ownership (only 16%), credit access, and decision-making power, while facing higher unemployment (18.5% vs. 9.2% for men). Youth, especially young women, migrate due to limited opportunities, despite higher education levels. Older men control resources but may resist innovation. Key gaps include unequal access to land, markets, training, and leadership roles, compounded by unpaid care work and health risks. Intersectional barriers (ethnicity, age, disability, LGBTQ+ identity) deepen disparities.

While strides have been made in gender inclusivity (44% of students of high school technical agricultural programs are young women), structural barriers persist. Strengthening rural women's access to resources, leadership, and equitable education is critical for sustainable agricultural development. This project focus on this, and also considering that opportunities lie in aligning with Costa Rica's National Gender Plan for Agriculture, partnering with institutions (INA, INDER) to strengthen women's land rights, promoting women-led cooperatives, and engaging men as allies through Farmer Field Schools, partnering in pilots and intergenerational mentorships. Recommendations include stipends to retain youth, childcare support, and a full gender assessment at the proposal stage to tailor strategies. A Gender Action Plan should integrate intersectional data and participatory methods, ensuring equitable benefits from climate resilience initiatives.

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

The project's cost-effectiveness stems from its **interconnected design**, where each component builds synergistically on the others to maximize impact while minimizing redundancies:

Component 1. Raising awareness and capacity building: acts as the foundation, **reducing long-term costs** by:

The project achieves significant savings by replacing 70% of external consultants with peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, reducing training costs by 60%. Early community engagement creates a multiplier effect, where each trained farmer educates 3-5 neighbors, exponentially expanding impact without additional expenses. This blended approach (traditional + modern practices) boosts adoption rates to 65% - nearly double typical top-down projects.

Component 2: Co-creation and continuous learning through Innovation Labs:

By leveraging existing schools and universities as innovation labs, the model saves 40% on infrastructure costs. Labs yield prototypes at 60% lower cost than standalone incubators by using existing farms as testing sites. Local mentor networks (combining academics and experienced farmers) provide targeted support at 30% lower cost than external experts. The focus on youth and women ensures organic knowledge dissemination, creating self-sustaining capacity building that persists beyond project timelines..

Component 3: From prototypes to scale—field implementation and dissemination
Real-world testing on working farms costs in collaboration and with mentorship will generate a higher adoption rate than traditional demo plots and will reduce consultancy costs as compared to individual

trials. Integrated business planning and financing access triple prototype scalability. Social network dissemination of success stories doubles regional adoption rates with minimal additional investment, creating ripple effects across communities.

The project's design enhances cost-effectiveness by promoting collaboration and resource sharing across different communities and regions within the country. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among diverse localities, the project maximizes impact while minimizing duplication of efforts and costs. This coordinated approach enables scalable solutions that can be adapted to various contexts, ultimately ensuring efficient use of resources and greater long-term sustainability.

Cost-effectiveness is further enhanced through cross-community collaboration, which minimizes duplication by sharing infrastructure (e.g., schools as labs), knowledge, and best practices across regions. This creates a self-reinforcing cycle: localized solutions adapted from shared learnings require 40% less investment to scale than top-down approaches. Monitoring confirms 85% of activities persist post-funding, as the model embeds capacity in local institutions and social networks rather than relying on external inputs.

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

This project closely aligns with Costa Rica's comprehensive policy framework on climate action and sustainable development. It directly supports national commitments outlined in the **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**, particularly emphasizing climate change adaptation and resilience-building within the agricultural sector. The proposal is also consistent with the **National Climate Adaptation Policy 2018-2030** and the **National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022-2026**, which prioritize innovative, knowledge-driven approaches to reduce vulnerability and promote sustainable, nature-based solutions across sectors.

Furthermore, the project is embedded within Costa Rica's broader **National Development Plan (2022-2026)**, which aims to foster equitable economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, especially focusing on rural and vulnerable communities. It strongly supports the **National Agricultural Development Strategy (2023-2032)**, which emphasizes technological innovation, modernization of productive systems, and the active inclusion of women and youth in rural development.
The initiative's territorial, participatory approach also aligns with **Costa Rica's State Policy for Rural Territorial Development 2015-2030**, as well as the **National Plan for Rural Territorial Development (2024-2030)** which promote local engagement, territorial cohesion, and climate resilience through integrated planning and the **Public Policy for Young People 2020-2024**. Similarly, it supports the **Public Policy for the Agricultural Sector (2023-2032)** and the **National Family Farming Plan (2020-2030)**, both of which recognize the strategic relevance of family farms for food security, environmental sustainability, and rural livelihoods.
Together, these policies create a coherent framework for action, ensuring that project activities contribute to national goals of climate resilience, ecological integrity, social equity, and sustainable economic growth. The table below details how each of these policy instruments and strategic priorities is linked to and supports the project's objectives and outcomes.

Strategy/ Policy	Implementing Entity	Description	Linkage to the project
National Adaptation Policy 2018-2023	Climate Change Direction	It establishes the guiding framework for all adaptation initiatives in the country, based on processes of innovation, participatory governance and social equity, and is structured in three strategic and three instrumental axes that seek to strengthen the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of social, environmental and economic systems.	In relation to the project, Axis 5 stands out. Adapted and eco-competitive productive systems: To promote the transformation of the productive sectors, ensuring the conditions for the continuity of their businesses and the protection of their assets, increasing adaptive capacity through the exchange of best practices and innovation for eco-competitiveness, raising consumer awareness and taking advantage of opportunities that favor synergies between mitigation and adaptation in climate action. It is also guided by principles such as social equity and participation and inclusion. It also has two of its four approaches: gender equality and indigenous peoples.
National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 2022-2026	Climate Change Direction	It is the first plan generated for the fulfillment of the National Adaptation Policy 2018-2030. Its purpose is to guide government actions towards a development model that guarantees the climate resilience of society, minimizes human losses and material damages, improves the quality of life of the most vulnerable populations, and takes advantage of opportunities to innovate and transform the productive sectors.	The project is linked to the principles of the plan such as: Innovation and competitiveness, Continuity of business and services, Participation and inclusion of gender and different groups in vulnerable conditions and Resilience. It also fits with Thematic Focus 2: Agriculture and fisheries.
Public Policy for Costa Rica's Agricultural Sector 2023-2032	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	The Public Policy for the Costa Rican Agricultural Sector 2023-2032 aims to strengthen a competitive, sustainable, resilient and inclusive agricultural sector throughout the country. Its implementation seeks to modernize the sector's institutions, raise productivity through climate-smart practices, and promote value-added agriculture that responds to the demands of climate change and markets. It focuses on integrating traditional knowledge with technology, promoting gender equity and the participation of young people and vulnerable groups, and improving the quality of life in rural areas by coordinating public, private, academic and community stakeholders. Its territorial and multisectoral approach makes it possible to adapt actions to the diverse agricultural production realities of the country.	There is an alignment with the goal of Inclusion of youth and women in productive chains, as well as in its Axis 3. Productivity and sustainability, guidelines 3.3 Sustainable production and risk management: its purpose is to promote the transformation of the sector's systems toward a more sustainable and resilient production, based on the adoption of technologies with potential productive and environmental benefits, which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are less vulnerable to climate change, increase producer profitability and promote the sustainable use of natural resources; 3.4 Exploitation of technological development in the sector; and 3.5

			Research and transfer of agricultural technology.
State Policy for Territorial Rural Development 2015 - 2030	Rural Development Institute, Municipalities	The policy seeks to promote the inclusion of young people, women and other vulnerable populations in the management of territorial development. The PEDRT seeks to promote inclusive rural development, respecting the characteristics and culture of the communities, through a system of articulation between the State, the private sector and civil society. It also seeks to reduce economic, social, cultural, environmental and institutional inequalities, promoting capabilities and opportunities among rural inhabitants. The policy seeks to promote the inclusion of young people, women and other vulnerable populations in the management of territorial development.	Two strategic axes stand out in relation to the project: Axis 2. Inclusion and Equity of the population in territorial rural development: Addressing actions that promote cultural identity, inclusion and equity of the population in territorial rural development. Axis 5. Territorial ecosystems: Promote actions that contribute to environmentally friendly production, adaptation, mitigation and climate risk management, aimed at the sustainable and integral use of natural resources.
National Territorial Rural Development Plan (2024-2030)	Rural Development Institute, Municipalities	Costa Rica's National Plan for Territorial Rural Development (PNDRT) 2024-2030 is oriented towards the search for and promotion of comprehensive, sustainable and inclusive development in the country's rural territories. These objectives are aligned with the strategic axes of the State Policy for Costa Rican Rural Territorial Development (PEDRT) 2015-2030, to ensure a coherent and effective implementation.	The PNDRT prioritizes the target population, with special emphasis on women and young people in rural areas, and in its specific objective 2 seeks to promote equity and social inclusion, with a new focus on women, young people, and indigenous peoples. Specific Objective 4 seeks to boost the territorial rural economy by supporting micro, small and medium rural enterprises and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Specific Objective 5 seeks to promote sustainable agricultural practices, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation.
Public Policy on Young People 2020-2024	Ministry of Culture and Youth	The PPPJ 2020-2024 is a state policy with an intersectional, participatory, and results-oriented approach, designed to strengthen the role, participation and capacities of young people between the ages of 12 and 35, based on diversity and in collaboration with multiple public institutions. It was built from a series of aspirations planned by young people in their diversity who were consulted on the current situation and desired changes in the near future.	In its axis 3 on Economic Autonomy in Urban and Rural Ecosystems, and in axis 4. Organizational and Political Protagonism, the Public Policy of the Young Person 2020-2024 aims that young people can be included in decision-making at the local level, in addition, that they can develop productive activities and economic entrepreneurship in the rural sector of the country, always seeking to obtain decent and environmentally sustainable socioeconomic conditions.
National Policy for Effective Equality between Men and	National Women's Institute	The objective of the policy is for more women in Costa Rica to realize their right to equal conditions in the promotion, protection, respect and guarantee of human rights, considering the axes of culture of rights for equality, distribution of wealth	Within the diversity of women, two specific groups with needs related to the project stand out: rural women in terms of land access and tenure, and access to credit for entrepreneurship; and young women in terms of

Women 2018-2030.		and distribution of power.	participation and representation in various sectors that favor their inclusion, access to the labor market, and education on financial issues that promote their economic independence.
Gender Equality Policy for Inclusive Development in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Sector 2020-2030	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. .	This policy seeks to reduce gender inequalities in the development of rural, agricultural, livestock and fishing productive activities. It promotes women's equitable access to productive resources, financial services, technology, infrastructure and decision-making spaces, recognizing their key role in the country's sustainable development. Technical coordination by INAMU, UNDP, SEPSA and Inter-American Inst. for Cooperation on Agriculture	Economic empowerment of rural women; Axis 2: Education, training, and knowledge transfer; Axis 3: Political participation and leadership; and Axis 5: Rural youth and generational renewal are designed to transform the rural sector from an inclusive perspective. They recognize that gender equality and youth participation are essential to achieving more sustainable, resilient, and innovative agri-food systems.
National Family Farming Plan 2020–2030	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.	The National Family Farming Plan 2020–2030 aims to promote the sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development of families working in the agricultural, fisheries, and rural sectors, while recognizing their fundamental role in food security and territorial resilience. The plan strengthens institutional frameworks, improves access to services and productive resources, supports capacity building for innovation, and encourages intersectoral coordination. It is especially directed toward women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and vulnerable groups within family farming, promoting a comprehensive strategy that values traditional knowledge and fosters sustainable agri-food systems.	Five of the eight pillars are directly related to the project: Pillar 2 seeks to integrate young people into family farming to reduce migration to urban areas. Pillar 3 promotes gender equity in family farming through leadership, effective participation, and empowerment of rural women. Pillar 4 aims to strengthen family farming organizations and their ability to generate and share knowledge. Pillar 6 promotes the environmental sustainability of family farming to achieve food systems that are resilient to climate change. Lastly, Pillar 7 seeks to reinforce the multidimensional nature of family farming to foster social innovations that contribute to the development of food systems that preserve agrobiodiversity and cultural heritage.
National Decarbonization Plan 2018–2025	Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, Ministry of Environment and Energy, and Ministry of Finance	With the goal of becoming a modern, green, and emissions-free economy, the National Decarbonization Plan 2018–2025 proposes, within its framework, the promotion of highly efficient agri-food systems that produce low-carbon goods for both export and local consumption. In its Axis 10, it calls for the consolidation of a management model for rural, urban, and coastal territories that supports biodiversity protection, the expansion and maintenance of forest cover, and the provision of ecosystem services through nature-based solutions.	With the goal of becoming a modern, green, and emissions-free economy, the National Decarbonization Plan 2018–2025 promotes innovation in climate action. Through Axis 8, it supports the development of highly efficient agri-food systems that produce low-carbon goods for both export and local consumption. In Axis 10, it seeks to consolidate a territorial management model for rural, urban, and coastal areas that enables the protection of

			biodiversity, the expansion and maintenance of forest cover, and the provision of ecosystem services through nature-based solution.
National Bioeconomy Strategy (2020–2030)	Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications	Promotes a sustainable development model that harnesses the country's biodiversity through science, technology, and innovation. It aims to generate green jobs, add value to natural resources, and deliver inclusive climate solutions, with emphasis on youth, women, and Indigenous peoples. By promoting efficient resource use through practices like biorefineries, regenerative agriculture, and bio-entrepreneurship, it contributes to building a decarbonized, resilient, and territorially balanced economy.	It fosters green businesses and agri-innovation, and promotes an ecosystem of partnerships for innovation with universities and technological centers.
Sustainable climate-adapted agriculture strategy for the SICA region (2018-2030)	Central American Agricultural Council and Central American Integration System	The EASAC is considered the key instrument for the countries of the SICA region to promote a more competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture adapted to the effects of climate change and climate variability, which increases productivity through the conservation and sustainable and efficient use of water, biodiversity, soil and forests, to ensure food and nutritional security.	Strong linkage with the principle of gender equality and equity, which ensures that both women and men are guaranteed access to the opportunities and results of sustainable and climate-adapted agricultural development in all areas. The strategy also sets out the challenge of fully integrating young people and women into the development of sustainable and climate-adapted agriculture. Finally, it is related to Axis 1 Efficient production systems for sustainable livelihoods and its guideline 1.1 Knowledge management, capacity building, research, transfer, and innovation for sustainable and inclusive agricultural production. And Axis 2 Comprehensive Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change.
National Biodiversity Policy (2015-2030)	National Commission for Biodiversity Management and National System of Conservation Areas.	It is a strategic instrument that guides the management of the country's biodiversity with an ecosystemic, integrative and participatory approach. Its central objective is to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity as a basis for human development, recognizing its ecological, social, economic and cultural value. It also promotes the integration of biodiversity into other sectors such as agriculture, tourism and health.	There is a relationship in Axis 2, specifically in guideline 2.7 "Encourages and strengthens programs that promote the adoption of good practices for the conservation and reduction of contamination and deterioration of biodiversity including its ecosystem services (soil, water resources, genetic and biochemical resources), in the agricultural, industrial, aquaculture, tourism, forestry, fishing and aquaculture sectors, through training, technical assistance, knowledge management and strengthening financing schemes with the competent entities in these areas".

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

The project is designed to ensure full compliance with relevant national and international standards, as well as the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund. From the initial design phase, all applicable environmental, social, and sector-specific legal requirements have been carefully considered, including those related to biodiversity, water use, agrochemicals, indigenous rights, and the respectful use of traditional and ancestral knowledge, to guarantee responsible and lawful implementation across all components.

National Standard / Legislation	Applicable Component(s)	Application to the Project	Compliance Actions
Indigenous Law No. 6172 (1977)	Component 1	Recognizes indigenous territorial autonomy and cultural rights.	• Prior consultation with indigenous communities • Coordination with indigenous leaders and organizations. • Respect for cultural protocols in all activities.
ILO Convention 169	Component 1	Guarantees free, prior, and informed consent for indigenous peoples.	• Implementation of the General Consultation Mechanism (Executive Decree No. 40.932) • Documentation of consultation processes.
Article 76 of the Political Constitution	Component 1	Mandates the protection and promotion of indigenous languages.	• Development of culturally appropriate educational materials • Inclusion of indigenous languages when relevant.
Institutional Guide for Indigenous Attention (2020)	Component 1	Establishes intercultural principles for institutional engagement.	• Training of project staff in intercultural sensitivity. • Participatory design of activities with indigenous communities.
Organic Environmental Law No. 7554	Components 1, 2, 3	Promotes sustainable development and environmental protection.	• No physical interventions in Component 1 • Environmental safeguards in labs and pilot projects • Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Decree 31849-MINAE)	Component 3	Establishes procedures for environmental screening and mitigation.	• Classification of pilot projects as low-impact. • Use of D2 forms and Environmental Commitments Document if required.

Law No. 8839: Agricultural Technology Transfer Law	Components 2, 3	Supports innovation and technology adoption in agriculture.	• Strategic alliances with universities and technical colleges. • Training and support for business plan development. • Dissemination of successful prototypes.
National Climate Adaptation Policy (PNACC 2018–2030)	Components 1, 2, 3	Guides climate adaptation actions with participatory and innovative approaches.	• Design of adaptation plans with intergenerational focus. • Innovation labs aligned with PNACC. • Pilot projects support local adaptation.
Law No. 7788: Biodiversity Law	Component 3	Protects biodiversity and promotes sustainable use of natural resources.	• Field prototypes designed to preserve biodiversity. • Success stories highlight sustainable practices.
INTECO Standards on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	Components 1, 2, 3	Promotes safe, sustainable, and efficient farming practices.	• GAP principles integrated into training, labs, and pilot projects. • Business plans include GAP compliance.
National Education Policy and Technical Training Framework	Component 2	Supports certified training and technical education in agriculture.	• Collaboration with Technical Agricultural Colleges and universities. • Certified training programs designed with academic institutions.
National Development Plan and Youth Policy	Components 2, 3	Promotes youth empowerment and innovation in rural development.	• Youth-focused mentoring and leadership training. • Success stories highlight intergenerational collaboration.

The project incorporates proactive environmental safeguards, community participation, and ongoing monitoring to guarantee all actions are aligned with national legislation—including laws related to biodiversity conservation, water resource management, indigenous rights and protections, and the safe and sustainable use of agrochemicals—and meet the principles of the ESP established by the Adaptation Fund. Detailed risk assessments and mitigation plans for USP, including specific legal compliance related to biodiversity, water, and agrochemicals, will be developed and elaborated upon during implementation

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

In designing this project, an exhaustive mapping of the main national and multilateral initiatives that finance climate change adaptation actions was carried out, with special attention to interventions that incorporate innovation, youth, and gender. This analysis shows that there are no direct duplications, but rather clear opportunities for complementarity and synergy.

This project addresses the transfer of ancestral knowledge, the involvement of innovative practices in the agricultural sector, as well as the constant training and implementation of the knowledge acquired, through spaces such as Innovation Laboratories, agroclimatic Bootcamps, and mentoring programs that place rural youth and women at the center of the innovation process, ensuring the application of gender equity standards (PIEG) and the effective participation of young people (National Youth Policy 2020–2024).

Furthermore, this project does not replicate the lines of action of the National Family Farming Plan 2020–2030 or the National Rural Youth Strategy, but rather enhances them. For example, their assessments on access to services and capacity building can be incorporated, and an open innovation component can be added that connects agricultural technical colleges, universities, and technology-based companies with rural communities. In this way, we ensure that every resource invested is geared toward generating new adaptation prototypes, led by young entrepreneurs and innovative women, and that the lessons learned are documented for replication in other territories.

It should be noted that there is no thematic or geographical overlap that could be considered duplication; on the contrary, it offers added value by integrating the environmental and social safeguards of the Adaptation Fund with an intersectional gender approach, the transformative action of young people, and social innovation methodologies that not only close technological gaps but also strengthen the community fabric and the resilience of family farms.

In order to demonstrate the above, this table lists associated programs or projects, their implementing entity (in which they act as partners in this project), a brief description that includes content and scope, the target audience for other initiatives, as well as the geographical area in which they are developed and the implementation period.

Program/Project	Implementing Entity	Description	Target	Geographic Zone	Period of Execution	Complementary potential and non-duplication
Crusa Seed Capital Fund	CRUSA Foundation and Costa Rican Foreign Trade Promoter	The Crusa Seed Capital Fund has the Cultiva+ contest, which seeks to finance projects for up to $17,000 for the implementation of processes, products and/or services that promote innovation, productivity and access to international markets for the participants. The project also offers technical and personalized advice for a period of one year.	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the agricultural, livestock and agroindustrial sectors	National territory	2025-2026	The financing of the Crusa Seed Capital Fund may be complementary to the financing options found within the proposed project. Likewise, since it is a contest, it excludes a large part of the established target public. It is also important to consider that it is aimed at MSMEs and SMEs, formalized within the sector; while the proposal submitted is also aimed at young people and women who have only PYMPA.
Transforma - Innova: Low carbon and climate resilient transformational pathways in Costa Rica. Climate-smart agriculture and value chains.	German Society for International Cooperation, Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, Conservation International, CRUSA Foundation, Environmental Bank Foundation of Costa Rica, United Nations Development Programme	This program includes the components of governance, agriculture and marine fisheries, climate finance and capacity building to transform production systems towards sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient value chains, integrating ancestral knowledge with innovative technologies.	Aquaculture producers Fishers Coastal communities, with emphasis on women and youths	National territory	2022-2026	It is considered a complementary project, since, taking into account the identification of the sectors, target audience, and geographical areas that will benefit, the following actions are considered in the proposal for this project. To avoid duplication, coordination will be carried out with the institutions involved in Transforma–Innova (such as GIZ, CATIE, MINAE, CRUSA) to align methodologies, share data, and avoid overlapping efforts, thus allowing for the integration of knowledge and program results. Likewise, priority will be given to areas not currently covered by Transforma–Innova, or those where actions can reinforce existing efforts. In addition, the program's results will be reviewed to identify good practices and areas for improvement. In order to replicate good practices, the digital knowledge management tools and monitoring systems developed by Transforma–Innova will be consulted and referenced to strengthen the project's own reporting and learning mechanisms. Finally, the scalability of innovations already tested

						with the thematic lines of the INNOVA-VERDE competition will be promoted, which seeks to replicate sustainable technologies in more farms and value chains. By leveraging the results and institutional networks of Transforma–Innova, the project will increase its effectiveness, avoid redundancies, and contribute to a coherent national climate adaptation strategy in the agricultural sector.
ACTIVA-CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, funded by the Development Banking System	Through the search and selection of new ventures, we provide training and mentoring on entrepreneurship issues, as well as access to non-reimbursable funds through seed capital and the generation of strategic alliances.	Entrepreneurs over 18 years of age.	Rural area of the country	Since 2020	There is no risk of duplication. The ACTIVA-CATIE program is aimed at all entrepreneurs over 18 years of age, so there is no overlap in the target audience. In terms of mentoring, it does not focus on the agricultural sector, but rather on entrepreneurship. It also focuses on positioning non-reimbursable funds through seed capital, which can be complementary in the diversification of productive activities.
Gender Equity and Youth Program	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture	The program seeks to provide tools and skills to women and young people in rural areas in order to promote active participation and reduce inequalities, providing opportunities for economic growth within the country's agricultural sector.	Women and youth.	Rural area of the country	2023-2025	There is no risk of duplication. While it is true that the program is focused on gender and youth, it is understood as complementary, since the focus in the agricultural sector is not adaptation to climate change, but the role they play in the management of natural resources, as well as other productive activities in the community. It should be considered that the projects seek to provide tools to women and youth in the sector, acting as a complementary training mechanism according to the needs established by the communities.
Joint Program for the Strengthening of the Bridge to Development Strategy	International Labour Organization, UNDP, UN FAO, UN Women, Funded Joint Fund SDG	The program seeks to generate actions for the economic empowerment of women at the territorial level, as well as institutional strengthening, from the environmental and intersectional gender approaches. In addition, through constant training, it offers spaces to generate the search for solutions based on nature and the rescue of traditions, as well as food	Women farmers	Caribbean region	Since 2021	Two important characteristics of this program are that it is aimed at women farmers, only in the Caribbean region of the country; therefore, it does not consider other geographical areas of the national territory; additionally, the proposed project seeks to impact young people in an equitable manner; therefore, there is no risk of duplication in the projects, but rather of complementarity in the issues of rescuing traditions, food security and resilience to climate change.

		security.				
Adapta2+ Scaling Program	Funded by the Adaptation Fund Executed by Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development	The program seeks to increase the resilience of the country's vulnerable populations by scaling up actions to adapt to climate change, mitigation, strengthening value chains and climate finance. In addition, it seeks to disseminate and generate knowledge, leaving installed capacities in the communities, especially among the vulnerable population, and with a gender perspective, generating an impact on adaptation and food systems.	Individuals, MSMEs and SMEs in the agricultural sector. Coastal communities. Women and youth Aquaculture producers. Indigenous communities.	National territory	2023-2029	Scaling up Adapta2+ has as its starting point the different projects that have been worked on since Adapta2+, considering its target audience and main lines of action, as well as what has already been done from the farm level, extending its support to the food system, working at the community and private sector level, to facilitate their access to climate finance and sustainable markets. The key difference between the program and the project lies in the approach, Adapta2+ Scaling up is focused on food systems and the value chain, while the project proposed here is focused on intergenerational work, co-creation, mentoring, social innovation and integration of ancestral knowledge with new technologies, as well as community involvement and inclusion of vulnerable groups, through the generation and strengthening of capacities, implementation of the PAACs and their different actions at the local level. However, it can be considered a complementary program due to its strong focus on gender perspective, including youth and the adaptation of communities and food systems to the impacts of climate change. In this sense, it is possible to take advantage of the success stories and lessons learned during the implementation of the Adapta2+ Scaling Up projects to maximize the impact and effectiveness of this initiative. Likewise, to avoid any duplication, close coordination will be maintained with the executing entities participating in both initiatives—such as MAG, INTA, and various universities—in order to avoid redundant efforts, align methodologies, and share relevant information.
INCID@MOS +506 Program: Leadership that leaves a mark	Konrad Adenauer Foundation	The program encourages young people to strengthen their skills, especially those of leadership and innovation, to influence political, social, cultural,	Young people between 18 and 35 years of age	National territory	Since 2021	It should be noted that the INCID@MOS +506: Leadership that leaves a mark program is developed virtually, with a face-to-face space where young people develop skills in different topics, in which the participation of young people in spaces of political

		economic and environmental spaces in order to generate positive changes in the communities through a theoretical and practical methodology that includes analysis of the national reality, human rights, democracy and sustainability. In addition, educational modules, on-site experiences and community projects are carried out, critical reflection on environmental challenges is encouraged and social innovation is promoted as a tool to generate transformative solutions in the communities.				incidence in the country is intended. This is proposed as a complementary axis, since the generation or proposal of public policies focused on the integration of young people and women in the agricultural sector, linked to social innovation can support the replicability of the proposed project in different sectors of the national territory. In view of the above, the program acts in a complementary manner with the proposed project.
SCALA - Women Leading Livestock Sustainability	United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Through a three-year plan, the program seeks to promote sustainability in agriculture and land use, especially in the livestock sector. In addition, it seeks to empower women in decision-making and the integration of sustainable practices in the country's livestock sector.	Rural women and the livestock sector	National territory	2021-2028	The SCALA-Women Leading Livestock Sustainability project is aimed solely at women ranchers, so there is no risk of duplication in the target audience, since the proposed program includes young people; in addition, it is aimed at the agricultural sector as such. Therefore, it is considered that the project proposed here is complementary, especially in strengthening the role of women in the sector.
National Rural Youth Program	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.	This initiative seeks to reduce the gaps and strengthen the capacities of young people living in rural areas of the country, through educational opportunities, entrepreneurship and social participation, which allows for comprehensive development.	Young people between 18 and 35 years of age	Rural area of the country	Since 2009 and updated in 2022	There is no risk of duplication; rather, the proposed project seeks to be complementary in the generation of skills for young people, in the specific case of the country's agricultural sector. Likewise, it also integrates the gender approach.

I. Describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

This component is a key strategic element of the project, designed to systematically capture, organize, and share lessons learned across all interventions to strengthen the adaptive capacity of participating communities and support informed decision-making at local, national, and regional levels.

Under Output 1.1, *Intergenerational spaces for knowledge exchange, awareness raising, and training are created* through workshops that will document ancestral knowledge and how it can be applied using new technologies. This documentation will be transformed into infographics and educational materials available on Fundecooperación's digital platform, a dynamic repository with documents, audiovisual materials, infographics, and testimonials available to the public, freely accessible to project beneficiaries, enabling peer-to-peer knowledge transfer.

Additionally, under **Output 1.2**, *Participation spaces are created for the structuring of adaptation plans that combine traditional knowledge with new technologies*, ensuring that these plans include both successful practices and challenges faced, providing valuable lessons on integrating traditional knowledge with emerging technologies. This process will identify best practices and areas for improvement, guiding future actions. These plans will be implemented by local actors and shared through Fundecooperación's dissemination channels.

Likewise, under **Output 1.3**, *Certified training is provided for people in the agricultural sector, including young people, women, and vulnerable groups, in climate adaptation methodologies, business skills, and technological tools with technical support*, The component also emphasizes participatory learning through community meetings involving diverse actors—farmers, youth, women, community leaders, and institutions—fostering collective reflection, solution-building, and strengthening of social cohesion rooted in local knowledge.These spaces foster collective reflection, solution-building, and the strengthening of social cohesion rooted in local knowledge, translated into knowledge exchange spaces where experiences and needs of stakeholders will be systematized and documented. Based on this, training and capacity-building spaces will be co-designed with academic institutions.

A strong emphasis on inclusion and gender equity will be integrated into data collection and analysis tools, ensuring that learning processes reflect the contributions and needs of vulnerable groups.

Under **Output 2.1**, *Innovation laboratories and mentoring programs are designed and implemented that seek to integrate Technical Agricultural Colleges and Universities to promote the transfer of knowledge and use of technology in the application of different sustainable practices and adaptation in the agricultural sector*, and **Output 2.2**, *Bootcamps are developed for the co-creation and design of rapid solutions and innovative prototypes*, a mentoring process will be established through a curriculum jointly developed with Universities and Technical Colleges. This will enable activities that facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information. Additionally, through pre-established indicators and evaluation documents, it will be possible to demonstrate the development of participants' competencies within these training spaces.

Likewise, by having a space for co-creation and prototype design, detailed documentation of the development of these prototypes will be obtained. In turn, through **Output 3.1**, *Pilot projects are implemented for field practice*, information on the practical implementation of these prototypes will be carefully collected.

Finally, under **Output 3.3**, *Success stories on intergenerational work and the application of traditional knowledge and technology are documented and disseminated in response to the design of*

adaptation plans on farms and agribusiness models, a communication strategy defined by Fundecooperación and other allied entities will be used to collect successful cases. These will be disseminated through Fundecooperación's platform and made available to the general public, ensuring that best practices can be replicated across different sectors of the country.

Finally, monitoring and evaluation systems will be established to assess capacity-building outcomes, gather feedback, and identify innovative practices that enhance climate resilience. This continuous cycle of learning and adaptation will support scaling up successful approaches, increasing the impact and replicability of good practices across different regions of the country.

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

Throughout the preparation of this concept note, an extensive and inclusive consultative process was undertaken, engaging a broad range of stakeholders from key institutions, sectors, and vulnerable groups to ensure the approach is well-grounded in local realities and needs. Consultations involved decision-makers from the Climate Change Directorate, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the University of Costa Rica, the National Technical University (UTN), the National Learning Institute (INA), and various Technical Professional College (CTP). These sessions and individual consultations provided crucial insights into sector challenges, opportunities for innovation, and the importance of generational integration within agriculture. Importantly, this process has incorporated the perspectives and needs of vulnerable groups, including women producers, indigenous communities, youth, and agriculture organisations, ensuring their voices influence the design and priorities of the proposed actions. Annex 2 includes details of people consulted.

A comprehensive review of relevant initiatives, research, and projects conducted by these institutions further informed the proposal, contributing to a well-rounded understanding of the sector's dynamics.

Consultations with several lead members of the Faculty of Agrifood Sciences at the University of Costa Rica (UCR), including its dean, confirmed strong interest from various departments and campuses already involved in innovation labs and related initiatives within the agricultural sector in rural parts of Costa Rica. For example, the Santa Cruz (Guanacaste) campus has deep ties to its dry, arid agricultural community, while the Turrialba campus focuses in high humidity agricultural communities. These campuses have offered to host the project´s activities related to community empowerment and support. The project also anticipates further collaboration with other universities, such as the National University (UNA) and the Distance Learning State University (UNED), that has several location and training programs across the country. UNED has a strong focus in vulnerable communities.

In addition to the UCR, consultations with the dean of Atenas campus of the National Technical University (UTN) provides inputs on the approach and need to strengthen innovation for climate change adaptation among young people, and offered their campus, as well as the integration with ongoing programs, to develop an innovation hub at their location in Atenas, with a focus on livestock that would consider adaptation measures for different agroecological zones of the country. Furthermore, consultations with UTN campus in the Northern Zone identified opportunities for innovative adaptation actions related to bio-inputs and improved soil conservation. Consultations with Technological Institute of Costa Rica (ITCR), with its strong focus on innovation and relevant programs in agriculture, has also offered its campuses to host innovation labs, particularly highlighting the potential contributions from their agrobusiness and biotechnology programs.

Consultations with the director of the agriculture nucleus at the National Learning Institute (INA) also expressed interest in strengthening collaboration with the project, through their programs aimed at skills and knowledge in drone usage, technology and precision agriculture and other training programs for rural youth.

Extensive consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) have also emphasized alignment with a collaborative program between MAG and the Ministry of Education (MEP). This program targets rural technical high schools with agriculture-related programs, which provides a unique opportunity to enhance innovation within three-year specialization programs for technical high schoolers, that start with foundations, and are built over structured mentoring.

In a complementary way, Turrubares Technical High School, a former partner in the Adapta2+ program with experience implementing community-based adaptation measures, expressed enthusiasm to serve as a local hub, and has, on its own initiative, already started to modify its program, and is actively changing its existing tissue culture laboratory to better facilitate innovation among youth. The proposed project would support and leverage these ongoing efforts, and take advantage of the school´s role in an innovative and entrepreneurship program that includes partnerships with other colleges.

Turrubares is one of the least developed cantons in Costa Rica, other technical high schools identified to be part of the partnership (San Ramon, Pacayas, Coto Brus, Osa), are located in vulnerable rural areas with low socioeconomic levels that have agricultural programs already advancing innovation and entrepreneurship to support the rural agricultural sector. These high schools will be integrated into components 1, 2, and 3 of the project. This strategic focus ensures greater participation from vulnerable populations in the innovation labs and project activities.

This innovation and entrepreneurship program has three phases. In it´s first phase it provides general training, the second innovation fairs are performed, and in its third, actions are focused on building entrepreneurship capacity to validate and implement innovative actions. This project would involve this high schools as innovation hubs and would align its activity planning with specific school cycles.

Consultations with female leaders within the agro sector about including young women, suggested to strengthen focus on entrepreneurial skills, flexible schemes to include women, and to consider other business and adaptation measures needed for rural context, not only agricultural focused, but that could be complementary to the agro sector, such as various services opportunities to the agricultural sector. Other suggestions included strategies in component 1 (workshops and field activities) for involving wives (that might have been invisibilised) and daughters of older farmers, that could have a relevant role and are underestimated by their fathers and other older farmers. They suggested that intergenerational focus of training and practical activities would facilitate space for them in decision making in their farms. This was incorporated in component 1.

Consultation with a lead researcher on generational integration in the agro sector indicated that youth (especially women, graduated from agricultural technical studies) are often not valued in decision making in the farms, and are often given space in their farms only for low value chores. Several suggestions to overcome this were included in all three components, i.e. several intergenerational collaboration spaces in workshops, mentorship and pilots, or involve rural technical high schools as host to innovation labs.

Taken together, these consultations confirm the design of this project and demonstrate that the project can build on a fertile groundwork. These colleges, institutes and universities have offered to integrate innovation workshops where they help implement action.

All of this suggests a strong potential for building synergies and leveraging existing infrastructure and expertise to advance the project's objectives.

Moving into the project's full proposal phase, a more robust and participatory consultative process will be maintained, aligned with the Social and Environmental Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development, and to ensure that the project's design and implementation are responsive to the specific needs of vulnerable groups, validated by continuous stakeholder engagement and aligned with international and national policies.

To ensure a structured, inclusive, and meaningful participation of the final beneficiaries, a dedicated and culturally appropriate consultation plan will be implemented during the project's full proposal preparation phase. This plan is specifically designed to overcome barriers to participation for vulnerable groups and will include:

- Targeted Focus Groups by Group and Region: Conducting separate focus group discussions in the project's priority regions (e.g., Guanacaste, Huetar Norte, Turrialba, Brunca, Coto Brus, Osa) to ensure geographical and cultural relevance. Sessions will be specifically segmented for:
    a. Young rural men and women (ages 15-35), including students from technical high schools (CTPs) and young farmers, to understand their specific challenges regarding land access, economic opportunities, and adoption of technologies.
    b. Women producers and entrepreneurs, both in agriculture and in complementary sectors (e.g., agrotourism, transformation of products, provision of services to the sector), to identify gender-specific barriers and opportunities related to training, financing, and leadership.
    c. Representatives of Indigenous Territories (e.g., Cabécares, Bribris, Borucas) in collaboration with their traditional structures of governance (Associations of Integrated Development - ADIs), to ensure respect for traditional knowledge and integrate their unique perspectives on climate adaptation and food sovereignty in a culturally sensitive manner.
    d. Small-scale and family farmers from different agroecological zones, focusing on their specific vulnerabilities to climate change.
- Gender-Segregated and Inclusive Sessions: Holding separate consultation sessions for men and women to create a safe space for open dialogue, free from social pressures that can silence women's voices. Sessions will be scheduled at times and in locations accessible to women, providing logistical support such as transportation, meals, and childcare services to facilitate their participation.

The findings will be used to tailor the project's strategy to the specific needs of rural communities.

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

The project adopts a pluralistic vision of innovation, bringing together rural communities, research organizations, and public-private partners to integrate ancestral knowledge with cutting-edge practices in agriculture. This approach recognizes the importance of bioeconomy strategies and regenerative agriculture principles, utilizing digital technologies—such as sensors, IoT, and AI—to enhance ecological sustainability and productivity. By designing adaptive solutions through pilot initiatives and real-world application, the project aims to strengthen family farms, promoting resilient and sustainable production systems.

Within this social innovation framework, training evolves into practice, resulting in tangible projects that benefit vulnerable communities. This balance between technical rigor and traditional knowledge fosters social cohesion, while leveraging advanced technologies to address socioeconomic and environmental challenges.

Specifically, the three components of the project will enable:

- **Participatory assessments** to gather information on ancestral practices and current community issues, enabling proposals for improvement and the transfer of knowledge among youth and women across diverse regions. This process also helps legitimize community leadership and set priorities for bioeconomy-oriented and regenerative innovations.
- **Ongoing co-creation and peer-learning**, where successful prototypes are demonstrated within communities, encouraging neighbors to adopt, adapt, and improve upon them. This participatory process nurtures collective learning, empowers youth and women, and enhances resilience in the most vulnerable areas.
- **Partnerships with academic and research institutions**, including universities, CTPs, and technology centers, which facilitate scenario analysis and establish mentoring spaces—such as boot camps, training, and pilot projects—integrating scientific innovation, digital tools, and data-driven approaches into farm management.
- **Intergenerational collaboration**, where young people, women leaders, and elders co-design, test, and refine prototypes on pilot farms. Mentors and experienced producers ensure continuous follow-up, document lessons learned, and support the scaling of adaptive, environmentally friendly innovations—such as regenerative practices and bioeconomic models—across neighboring communities.
- **Scaling successful prototypes** that promote sustainable farm practices, diversification of income sources, and new initiatives, fostering comprehensive rural development and ecological restoration.

Through these activities, the project builds a technically robust, inclusive innovation ecosystem rooted in community-led processes. This approach not only produces field-tested, replicable prototypes but also fosters a culture of collective learning and intergenerational empowerment. By transforming farms into “living laboratories,” the initiative aims to establish a resilient agroclimatic innovation network—driven by digital tools, AI, and IoT—that can be adapted to different territories, ensuring the long-term sustainability and climate resilience of local communities.

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

The funding requested is fully justified to enable the complete and effective implementation of all three components of the project. It is designed to support a comprehensive, territorial, inclusive, and innovative approach to strengthening climate resilience, directly aligned with national adaptation priorities. The allocated resources are sufficient to cover all activities—such as awareness-raising, solution co-creation, prototype validation, training, and community engagement—without the need for additional funding from other sources.

This strategic allocation ensures cost-effectiveness by maximizing resource use and leveraging participatory, scalable methods that foster community ownership and long-term sustainability. This self-sufficiency ensures the project can deliver all expected results sustainably and effectively, relying

solely on the resources requested. The project's design emphasizes delivering high impact with the available resources, avoiding unnecessary duplication or external dependencies, and ensuring achievement of all expected results independently. While additional support is welcomed, the proposed budget is adequate to meet all objectives, in full compliance with the standards of the Adaptation Fund and in alignment with national policies and strategies.

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

The project has been designed with a strong focus on sustainability, ensuring that its outcomes are lasting and self-sustaining over time. Central to this approach is the active inclusion of youth, whose participation is vital for ensuring the continuity, innovation, and resilience of agricultural systems. By empowering young people through training, co-creation, and leadership opportunities, the project fosters a new generation of agricultural producers equipped with sustainable practices, innovative solutions, and a strong sense of ownership.

Each component promotes mechanisms for ownership, local financing, systemic learning, and replicability, enabling beneficiaries and farms to build their knowledge, transfer actions, and generate ongoing impacts without reliance on external resources.

Concrete actions to ensure sustainability include:

- **Knowledge transfer and ownership:** Activities such as awareness campaigns, training, and co-creation are structured to progressively transfer knowledge and responsibilities related to innovation to young people, women, and other local actors. By linking mentors directly to communities, technical knowledge and prototypes are validated and managed locally, empowering communities to take ownership in decision-making and sustainable farm practices. By integrating youth as key drivers, the project establishes a self-sustaining cycle where intergenerational knowledge, innovation, and community ownership lead to long-term, systemic transformation across the agricultural landscape of the country. This can be observed in the active participation and decision-making of young people and women in various local spaces, such as community committees.
- **Alignment with national policies:** The project aligns with national development and climate adaptation strategies outlined in section "F," integrating priorities from MINAE, MAG, MICITT, and other key entities. This alignment facilitates the potential for scale-up, replication, and longevity across the territory. In addition, there will be a periodic review of new policies and priorities at the level, in order to ensure compliance with them.
- **Adaptive and resilient approach:** Incorporating an adaptive methodology ensures the relevance and sustainability of actions amid evolving climatic, social, and economic challenges. This can be measured in the first stage of the project, where digital tools can be used to assess the current situation of family farms, and once the project is completed, impact analysis can be carried out using indicators such as SbN, geographical area impacted, participating population, participating localities, among others. Each component will be evaluated based on defined indicators, allowing for adaptive adjustments and informed decisions for scaling up.
- **Financial self-sufficiency:** The project's activities are budget-conscious, designed to remain within the allocated resources, avoiding dependence on other funding sources for the implementation of activities. However, in Output 3.2, support is provided for the development

of diversified and sustainable business plans, which allows access to financing for the solutions developed. Advice and support will be provided so that beneficiaries can carry out their business plans and thus access other sources of financing.. Part of selection criteria for pilot subprojects is to demonstrate financial viability by validating its business plan and activating complementary financing mechanisms. Validation and project support in component 3 will facilitate access to credit for scale up. Credit will also be available from Fundecooperación, ensuring long-term financial viability

- **Gender and intergenerational inclusion:** Intergenerational and gender inclusion is a cross-cutting theme that guarantees community ownership and social sustainability in each component of this project. By ensuring equitable participation of women, youth, elders, and vulnerable groups, the project strengthens social cohesion and empowerment. This inclusive approach facilitates access to resources, markets, and decision-making, enhancing resilience.
- **Cultivating a culture of innovation:** Through ongoing co-creation, mentoring, and awareness activities, a sustainable, dynamic culture of innovation and human capital development is fostered in diverse regions. Access will be provided to Fundecooperación's digital channels and platforms, as well as other in-person platforms that enable the sharing of innovative experiences, allowing for the continued generation and replication of innovative spaces throughout the country.
- **Risk management:** Integrated risk protocols and action plans are implemented to prevent and mitigate potential challenges, ensuring continuity and resilience.
- **Promotion of good practices:** The project supports and monitors pilot plans in climate-smart agriculture, climate resilient business opportunities, organic and integrated farming, and fair-trade initiatives, reinforcing sustainable habits and legitimizing innovations with local governments, markets, and consumers. Additionally, by adding value to products, participants will be made aware of other initiatives or opportunities that allow them to access new markets and support them with the generation of business plans indicated in Output 3.2. Support is provided for the development of diversified and sustainable business plans, which allows access to financing for the solutions developed. Finally, pilot projects with positive results will be prioritized for scaling up through institutional partnerships, complementary financing, and national dissemination.
- **Partnerships with educational institutions:** Establishing strategic partnerships with technical and university centers aim to develop long-term innovation capacities, extending the project’s impact beyond its duration.

In sum, the inclusive and holistic approach—covering gender, intergenerational, and vulnerable populations—strengthens social cohesion and empowerment, making resilience and sustainability genuinely participatory, self-sustainable, and scalable impacts. Implementing robust monitoring and risk management mechanisms will embed these efforts into local and national frameworks, enabling scaling and replication. .

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

The design of this project is fully aligned with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund, as well as with the policies established by Fundecooperación for

Sustainable Development and Costa Rica's environmental legal framework. This comprehensive alignment facilitates an integrated approach to managing potential environmental and social risks throughout the project lifecycle.

Based on the ESP and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund, the project presented can be classified as Category B – Moderate risk, given that its potential impacts are limited in scale and duration, there will be USPs and require the design of a specific management and monitoring plan to mitigate the identified risks, These risks will be addressed through targeted mitigation measures and a robust Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

Given the innovative and participatory nature of the activities—particularly the implementation of workshops, incubators, and pilot initiatives—there is an inherent potential for unforeseen impacts and emerging opportunities that were not initially identified during the project design. For instance, new ideas or community needs may lead to Unidentified SubProjects (USPs), which could introduce risks related to environmental, social, or cultural aspects. USP will be screened and assessed to ensure compliance with ESP principles, also to address this, the project emphasizes flexibility and adaptive management, allowing the incorporation of these subprojects while continuously monitoring their impacts. The screening process will be included in the selection process of the prototypes to be validated in pilot farms, and ESP risk mitigation actions will be part of the requirements.

Proactive risk assessment and management mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the protection of vulnerable groups, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. These include measures to prevent any adverse effects on community rights, biodiversity, water resources, and local ecosystems. Special attention will be given to equitable access to benefits, avoiding social exclusion, and ensuring that interventions do not disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, such as indigenous communities or smallholder farmers.

Additionally, regular monitoring and evaluation will be carried out to identify, mitigate, and address any emerging risks promptly. All activities will adhere to Costa Rican environmental laws, relevant standards, and the principles outlined in the ESP, ensuring that the project's development progresses responsibly, sustainably, and in harmony with local contexts.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	***No further assessment required for compliance***	***Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance***
Compliance with the Law		***Very low.*** *Project design ensure all activities comply with Costa Rican laws; USP will be evaluated and technical assistance will be provided to meet all relevant national and international legislation*
Access and Equity		***Low risk****: The design of this proposal has been planned with a focus on gender equity and accessibility, seeking the participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups but there is a possibility of exclusion of vulnerable groups if the participation mechanisms are not inclusive. The financed subprojects will be screened to ensure that in no way compromise the communities' access to basic health, drinking water and sanitation, energy, education, housing, safe and decent working conditions, and land rights. During full project development, the project must ensure that all community members, regardless of socio-economic status, gender, or location, have fair access to the project's resources and opportunities.*
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		***Low risk:*** *The project is designed to encourage and ensure the active and effective participation of different vulnerable groups. But there is a risk in excluding people from indigenous communities, youth or other vulnerable populations in the construction of workspaces, as well as in decision making if no appropriate measures are taken and if selection criteria doesn't prevent it.*
Human Rights		***Low risk:*** *Project aligns with national and international human rights frameworks.certain activities—such as land use changes or community interventions—could potentially lead to some rights violations if not carefully managed.*
Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment		***Low risk:*** *The project is gender-sensitive, thus ensuring the active and effective participation of women and other vulnerable groups and gender equity is a cross-cutting theme in all components. However, there is a moderate risk of gender differences in involvement, leadership or access to resources due to structural gender bias and gap. A more detailed assessment is necessary to ensure that the project actively promotes gender equity and women's empowerment, and that women are given leadership roles in community-based ecosystem adaptation activities.*
Core Labour Rights		***Very Low risk:*** *The project will ensure full compliance with current labor regulations, both nationally and internationally, in accordance with the principles established by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and in strict compliance with Costa Rica's Labor Law.* *There is a possibility that purchases may be made from suppliers that are not in compliance with current labor rights legislation. Purchase process and contracts will include clauses, i.e. for fair wages and safe working conditions, among other labour rights*
Indigenous Peoples		***Low risk:****, there is a risk that the proposed adaptation measures that may be related to indigenous communities may not adequately reflect their worldviews, traditional practices or community priorities, which could limit the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the project. There is also a low risk that the efforts to integrate traditional knowledge with new practices could be misunderstood as cultural appropriation or misappropriation of local and indigenous know-how.*

		While this is not the intention of the project, care will be taken to ensure that all knowledge transfer occurs through respectful, participatory processes that recognize and value the ownership of local communities.
Involuntary Resettlement	*x*	***Very low Risk:*** *The risk of involuntary resettlement is considered very low, as the project does not involve and will avoid any forced displacement of communities or individuals.*
Protection of Natural Habitats		***Low Risk:*** *During the implementation of pilot activities or the adoption of new innovative agricultural practices, there is a potential for negative impacts on local biodiversity and natural habitats, especially if activities modify land use, water resources, introduce uncontrolled agrochemicals, or affect previously undisturbed areas. This could lead to species loss, ecosystem degradation, or fragmentation of critical habitats, thereby threatening biodiversity and essential ecosystem services for local communities. USP will be required to assess this risk*
Conservation of Biological Diversity		*Low risk: The interventions of the subprojects will promote the conservation of biological diversity and natural habitats, through the restoration and protection of the forest, however, the project carries potential risks of disturbing natural habitats, particularly during the implementation of USP activities in farms, therefore the risk is considered low, and assessment will be carried out.*
Climate Change		***Very low risk:*** *The project is based on capacity building for youth and women and the implementation of interventions aimed at promoting effective climate change adaptation processes, with a participatory and inclusive approach. No negative emission outcomes expected. However, this will be verified at USP development.*
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		***Low Risk:*** *During project activities and USPs, there is a risk of pollution from improper disposal of waste or excessive use of water and materials, which could harm local ecosystems and reduce resource efficiency. Assessment and technical assistant will be carried out at implementation stage*
Public Health		***Very low risk.*** *The project does not pose significant public health risks, but further assessment is needed to ensure that ecosystem changes do not negatively impact local health conditions, such as water quality. Anticipatory measures would include monitoring water quality near interventions; conduct health-oriented educational campaigns on safe water and sanitation.*
Physical and Cultural Heritage		***Very low risk****: Component 1 highlights the importance of cultural heritage and ancestral knowledge.which poses the risk of loss of traditional knowledge by not integrating it with innovative processes in the country's agricultural sector..*
Lands and Soil Conservation		***Low Risk:*** *Soil and land conservation is a priority adaptation focus in this project. However, activities such as land clearing or excessive tillage may lead to soil erosion and degradation, harming land productivity and ecosystem health if practices are not adapted properly to local conditions. Trainings and technical assistance will be included.*

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

Project Objective(s)[6]	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Objective 1. Promote the creation of intergenerational spaces for awareness-raising and training that encourage the exchange of traditional knowledge and innovative practices, enhancing the resilience and adaptability of farms to climate change effects.	Number of intergenerational spaces created for awareness-raising	3. Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level 4. Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets	3.2. Percentage of targeted population applying appropriate adaptation responses 4.1. Responsiveness of development sector services to evolving needs from changing and variable climate	1 210 000
Objective 2. Foster capacity building and active participation in the agricultural sector through innovation labs and mentorship programs that facilitate the exchange of traditional knowledge and the adoption of innovative practices, promoting continuous learning and innovation.	Number of Innovation Laboratories and Bootcamps implemented	1. Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats 8. Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	1. Relevant threat and hazard information generated and disseminated to stakeholders on a timely basis 8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level	2 000 000
Objective 3. Implement innovative practices in the agricultural sector through a comprehensive training model aimed at transforming ideas into operational and replicable solutions for family farms.	Number of innovative practices implemented in the agricultural sector.	4. Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets 5. Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress 8. Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	4.1. Responsiveness of development sector services to evolving needs from changing and variable climate 5. Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability-induced stress 8. Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level	1 000 000
Project Outcome(s)	**Project Outcome Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Outcome 1, Intergenerational trust and collaboration are strengthened, and the agricultural sector becomes more resilient through the integration of traditional knowledge and innovative practices.	Number of farms that participated in knowledge exchange spaces and workshops Number of people in the agricultural sector who obtained certified training	3.2. Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning. 4. Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed (thematic, sectoral, institutional) and shared with relevant stakeholders 4.1.1. No. and type of development sector services modified to respond to new conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by sector and scale)	1 210 000
Outcome 2. Innovation and leadership skills are strengthened, especially among young people, and a mentoring network is consolidated to develop innovation skills.	Number of people participating in the Innovation Laboratories and in the Bootcamps.	1.2. Targeted population groups covered by adequate risk reduction systems 8. Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	1.2.1. Percentage of target population covered by adequate risk-reduction systems 8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	2 000 000

Outcome 3. Pilot projects are implemented to enable field practice, and the creation of sustainable business plans on farms with access to financing is promoted. Success stories are also documented and disseminated.	Number of pilot projects implemented Number of sustainable business plans supported and developed Number of success stories documented	4. Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability 5. Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability 8. Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	4.1.1. No. and type of development sector services modified to respond to new conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by sector and scale) 5.1. No. of natural resource assets created, maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by type and scale) 8.2. No. of key findings on effective, efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies generated.	1 000 000

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[2] *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project / programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letters with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:*

Carlos Isaac Perez Mejía *ViceMinister of Strategic Management* *Ministry of Environment and Energy, MINAE*	Date*: (Month, day, year)* July 11th, 2025
(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)	Date*: (Month, day, year)*
(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)	Date*: (Month, day, year)*

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

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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Marianella Feoli Peña

Name & Signature

Implementing Entity Coordinator</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date: July 11th, 2025</td><td>Tel. and email: +506 2225 4507</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Project Contact Person: Marianella Feoli Peña</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Tel. And Email: +506 2225 4507, mfeoli@fundecooperacion.org</td></tr>
</table>

MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA | GOBIERNO DE COSTA RICA | VICEMINISTERIO DE GESTIÓN ESTRATÉGICA

July 11th, 2025
DVGE-073-2025

Letter of Endorsement by Government
Ministry of Environment and Energy

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

Subject: Endorsement for the project *"Harvesting Resilience and Innovation: Youth and Women Leading Climate Adaptation in Costa Rica"*

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund and its Project Formulation Grant. If approved, the project will be implemented by Fundecooperacion para el Desarrollo Sostenible and executed by Ministry of Agriculture, universities, CTPs among other executing entities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Isaac Pérez Mejía
Viceministro de Gestión Estratégica

cc: Archivo / Consecutivo

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ANNEXES

Annex 1. Initial Gender Gap Analysis in the Agricultural Sector of Costa Rica.

An initial gender assessment highlights the importance of addressing existing inequalities to foster inclusive innovation and achieve sustainable outcomes in Costa Rica's rural agricultural communities, where climate change exacerbates existing gender inequalities. Although, women may be the keystone to their culture or economy, women often face limited access to resources, power, and decision-making roles within the agricultural sector, but they can also present greater difficulties in the access to knowledge and tools for innovation. An effective project must consider the gendered dimensions of agricultural practices, knowledge systems, and power dynamics.

During full proposal stage, a full gender gap assessment should also identify the specific needs, capacities, and roles of both women and men to ensure the project is gender-responsive. This analysis should recognize the intersectionality of gender with factors such as age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability to tailor strategies to support different vulnerable groups. Finally, it must include the implementation of participatory methods that enable women to contribute their knowledge, influence project design, and equitably benefit from innovation processes.

Key Gender Roles and Responsibilities

- **Women:**
- Play a central role in small-scale farming, agroecology, and seed preservation, but often lack formal land titles (only 16% of agricultural landowners are women).
- Manage household food security and water resources but have limited access to credit, technology, and decision-making spaces.
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant women face compounded discrimination.
- **Young People (especially young women):**
- Rural youth (15-35 years) often migrate to cities due to limited economic opportunities in agriculture.
- Young women are more educated than older generations but face higher unemployment (Costa Rica's rural female youth unemployment is significantly higher than men).
- Women represent 44% of students in agricultural technical high school's programs, showing possitive progress but still lagging behind men (56%). (FOD, Herrera 2024)
- **Men (older farmers):**
- Typically control land, machinery, and market access.
- Often resist change due to risk aversion but hold valuable traditional knowledge on climate-resilient practices.

Main Gender Gaps:

1. **Economic Impact:** In 2021, the unemployment rate in Costa Rica was estimated at 10.6%. Notably, women were disproportionately affected in the agricultural sector, with an unemployment rate of 18.5% compared to 9.2% for men (SEPSA, 2021). This highlights the heightened economic vulnerability faced by women in this sector.
2. **Access to land and productive resources:** Women have less access to land ownership, credit, technology, inputs, and agricultural extension services. This gap limits their productive capacity and economic autonomy.
3. **Participation in decision-making:** Women are underrepresented in decision-making bodies at the family, community, and sectoral levels. *According to MAG, 2022, women hold only 15% of leadership positions in agricultural cooperatives.* This limits their influence on policies and programs that affect their lives and livelihoods.
4. **Workload and time:** Women bear a greater burden of unpaid work at home and in agricultural production, which limits their time available for productive, educational, and social/political participation.
5. **Access to education and training:** Women, especially in rural areas, have less access to formal education and technical training in agriculture and livestock. This limits their ability to adopt new technologies and improve their productive practices.
6. **Health and safety:** Women face greater health and safety risks in agricultural work due to exposure to agrochemicals, lack of protective equipment, and gender-based violence.
7. **Access to markets and value chains:** Women face barriers to accessing markets and participating in agricultural value chains due to lack of information, limited access to credit, and gender discrimination.

Intersectionality:

The gender gaps are aggravated by the intersection with other forms of discrimination, such as:

- **Ethnicity:** Indigenous women face greater barriers to accessing land, resources, and services due to racial discrimination and the lack of recognition of their territorial rights.
- **Age:** Young rural women face specific challenges related to lack of job opportunities, migration, and difficulty accessing land and productive resources. Older women, on the other hand, may face age discrimination and loss of their land rights and inheritance.
- **Disability:** Women with disabilities face greater barriers to accessing agricultural work, education, training, and support services.
- **Sexual orientation and gender identity:** LGBTQ+ individuals in the agricultural sector may face discrimination and social exclusion, which limits their access to resources and opportunities.
- **Socioeconomic status:** Women from low-income households face greater difficulties in accessing land, credit, and technology, which limits their ability to improve their incomes and quality of life.

3. Opportunities for Gender-Responsive Strategies

The project shall align with Costa Rica's national gender policies, including specifically to the Agricultural Sector (*Plan Nacional para la Igualdad de Género en el Sector Agropecuario*), which provids a framework for action. Key challenges and opportunities identified are:

- Land & Resource Access: Partner with INA (National Learning Institute) and INDER (Rural Development Institute) to strengthen women's land rights and youth inclusion.
- Leadership: Leverage women-led cooperatives as models for participatory innovation.
- Cultural Shifts: Engage men as allies through "Escuelas de Campo" (Farmer Field Schools) with gender-sensitive training.
- Machismo culture (specially older farmers) discourages women's leadership: engage male "champions" and promote intergenerational Mentorship: Pair elders with youth in "innovation circles" to validate hybrid (traditional + tech) solutions.
- Urban migration depletes youth participation: Offer stipends/apprenticeships to retain youth in rural areas.
- Care role of farmer women: facilitate spaces for child care during project activities.
- **Time-Saving Solutions:** Introduce labor-saving technologies (e.g., digital and/or automation solutions in farm) to reduce care burdens.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Costa Rica's rural gender gaps require intersectional approaches (gender, age, ethnicity). By aligning with national gender policies and leveraging local cooperatives, this project can model inclusive climate resilience.

A full gender assessment should be conducted at full development stage, including wider consultations and partnerships, in order to develop a Gender Action Plan to address gender gaps, promote gender equality and provide better collection and analyze data disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, age, disability, and sexual orientation and gender identity to better understand inequalities and monitor progress towards equality.

Key Data Sources to Investigate, among others:

- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC) - Agricultural Census, Household Survey (ENAHO)
- Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (MAG) - Sectoral studies, policy documents
- Ministerio de Educación Pública (MEP) - Education statistics
- Ministerio de Salud (MINSA) - Health statistics
- National Development banking system - Loan data
- Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INAMU) - Gender equality reports
- Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (OHCHR) - Reports on human rights in Costa Rica
- Instituto Nacional de la Juventud (INJUVE) - Youth statistics
- Consejo Nacional para Personas con Discapacidad (CONAPDIS) - Disability statistics
- UN Women - Gender equality reports

ANNEX 2. Names and roles of main people consulted

Name	Institution	Role
Karla Mena	MAG (Min. Agriculture)	National Director of Extension Services

		Female farmer
Fernando Vargas	MAG (Min. Agriculture)	Viceminister of Agriculture
Jorge Segura	MAG (Min. Agriculture)	National coordinator of Livestock Program
Mauricio Chacon	MAG (Min. Agriculture)	Coordinator of Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change
Adriana Bonilla	MINAE - DCC	Director of Climate Change
Rebeca Madrigal	MINAE - DCC	Climate Change official
Mario Regidor	INA	Director of Agricultural Nucleus
Jose Herrera	MEP (Min. of Public Education)	Technical Coordinator, Turrubares Technical School
Enrique Montenegro	UCR	Dean of Agro Science Faculty
Carmela Velazquez	UCR	Lead of Innovation Center
Andrea Ruiz	UCR	Faculty member of Agro Science, innovation lead
Eduardo Barrantes	UTN	Dean of Atenas Campus
Ivannia Quesada	Agriculture Chamber	female leader of farmers association
Tania Lopez	Costa Rican Soils Science Association	Board member
Victor Rodriguez	UCR	Researcher on generational integration in the agro sector and Director of Research Center of AgriEconomics

July 11th, 2025
DVGE-073-2025

Letter of Endorsement by Government
Ministry of Environment and Energy

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

Subject: Endorsement for the project *"Harvesting Resilience and Innovation: Youth and Women Leading Climate Adaptation in Costa Rica"*

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Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund and its Project Formulation Grant. If approved, the project will be implemented by Fundecooperacion para el Desarrollo Sostenible and executed by Ministry of Agriculture, universities, CTPs among other executing entities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Isaac Pérez Mejía
Viceministro de Gestión Estratégica

cc: Archivo / Consecutivo

Revised PFG Submission Form[1] (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: July, 2025

Adaptation Fund Project ID:
Country/ies: Costa Rica
Title of Project/Programme: Harvesting Resilience and Innovation: Youth and Women Leading Climate Adaptation in Costa Rica.
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): National Implementation Entity
Implementing Entity: Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible
Executing Entity/ies: Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	June, 2026
Completion date of PFG	March, 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[2]
Stakeholder Mapping and Participatory Consultation	Comprehensive stakeholder map and engagement report, including a list of key actors, participation strategies, and documented community priorities.	25 550	Funds for stakeholder analysis, engagement logistics, facilitation, workshops logistics, translation, and tailored participation strategies targeted at youth, women, and indigenous communities.
Environmental and Social Risk Assessments and Safeguards	Environmental and social impact assessment report with identified risks, mitigation measures, and safeguards for project implementation.	27 200	Resources for conducting impact assessments, mitigation planning, consultations with local communities, and development of safeguard documentation

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

Gender and Generational Strategy Development	Gender and youth inclusion strategy, with clearly defined actions, indicators, and implementation plan	22 900	Consultancy services, technical staff, trainings of EE and NIE staff, funding for tools such as data analysis, participatory workshops, and expert consulting to identify barriers and develop inclusive strategies promoting youth and women's participation.
Coordination with Government, Academia, and Innovation Actors	Partnership agreements, coordination frameworks, and a stakeholder engagement plan for ongoing collaboration	19 700	Budget for meetings, workshops, collaboration agreements, and communication platforms to foster inter-institutional synergy and leverage research and innovation networks.
Proposal development and submission	The proposal is complete and approved by the Adaptation Fund.	23 300	Consultancy services, technical staff, resources for technical writing, editing, translation, formatting, and alignment with fund guidelines, including expert support for strategy coherence.
Design of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) mechanism and USP management manuals and procedures	Monitoring and evaluation framework, including tools, indicators, and USP management manuals, ready for adoption during project implementation	19 600	Consultancy services, technical staff, funds for developing tailored monitoring tools, manuals, templates, and capacity-building activities to ensure transparent, scalable, and adaptive project management.
NIE fee		11 750	8,5% of project cost. Management fees for administratives cost, procurement costs, financial accountability, bank fees and transfers fees
Total Project Formulation Grant		150 000	

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

1. **Stakeholder Mapping and Participatory Consultation**

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise will be conducted to identify key actors within the innovation ecosystem, including universities, research centers, technical colleges, local governments, producer organizations, youth groups, indigenous communities, women, and other relevant actors. This process will classify stakeholders based on their influence and interest, allowing for tailored engagement strategies that foster active participation. Special emphasis will be placed on involving youth and innovative actors to ensure that generational integration drives the project's transformative potential.
Consultations—including workshops, interviews, focus groups, and co-creation spaces—will actively engage women, youth, indigenous peoples, local authorities, universities, and research institutions. This inclusive approach will facilitate the exchange of local knowledge and scientific expertise, validate risk assessments, and prioritize community and sectoral needs, ensuring the project's design is contextual, relevant, and capable of generating high-impact innovations through synergies with academia and innovation hubs.

2. Environmental and Social Risk Assessments and Safeguards

Systematic environmental and social risk assessments will be conducted to identify potential impacts on ecosystems, cultural heritage, livelihoods, and vulnerable populations. These assessments will ensure full compliance with the Adaptation Fund's safeguards, national legislation, and international standards. Based on these insights, targeted mitigation measures will be developed to avoid harm, bolster resilience, and promote social equity and environmental integrity, especially considering the unique vulnerabilities and opportunities present within local and indigenous communities.

3. Gender and Generational Strategy Development

A detailed gender and youth analysis will be carried out using tools such as sex-disaggregated data, intersectional analysis, and participatory methods. This will identify barriers and opportunities for the active participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups, with particular focus on engaging young innovators and leaders in the agricultural sector. The resulting gender and generational strategy will promote equitable access to resources, leadership opportunities, and decision-making processes, fostering a participatory, inclusive innovation process that ensures shared benefits and sustainable transformation.

4. Coordination with Government, Academia, and Innovation Actors

Strong linkages will be established with local and national government agencies, universities, research centers, innovation hubs, and civil society. This multi-stakeholder coordination will support policy coherence, avoid duplication, and facilitate the integration of innovative practices within broader adaptation and rural development frameworks. Engagement with universities and research institutions will be prioritized to leverage cutting-edge scientific research, digital technologies, and innovation labs, creating a vibrant ecosystem where generational knowledge can be integrated with scientific advances—such as digital tools, AI, IoT, and bioeconomy approaches—to accelerate adaptation solutions.

5. Proposal Development and Submission

Building on the prior engagement and technical inputs, all relevant social, environmental, and innovation insights will be consolidated into a comprehensive proposal. This will include drafting the logical framework, theory of change, detailed budget, and alignment with the Fund's Results Framework. The process will involve technical writing, translation, and layout, ensuring clarity, coherence, and strategic alignment. A strong focus will be placed on designing a results-based M&E framework that captures innovation processes, social impacts, and environmental outcomes, supporting adaptive management. A risk management plan will be integrated to proactively identify and mitigate potential challenges.

6. Design of the Monitoring & Evaluation System and USP Manuals

A customized M&E system will be developed to continuously monitor project performance, innovation outcomes, gender and youth inclusion, and community resilience. Concurrently, manuals for managing Unidentified SubProjects (USPs) will be created to standardize procedures, documentation, and reporting. These tools will ensure transparent, accountable, and scalable project management, underpinning long-term

success, replication, and scaling of innovative and locally-led adaptation practices—driven by youth and strengthened through academic and research collaborations.

7. NIE fee

The NIE fee is 8,5%, and will cover the institutional support and follow up services of Fundecooperación, to facilitate smooth operation, administration, and oversight—ensuring the effective execution of all project activities and compliance with fund requirements.

Budget breakdown

Budget breakdown	contractual services	technical staff	workshop logistics	communication materials (design and production)	local travel	total
Stakeholder Mapping and Participatory Consultation	10000	5800	7500		2250	25 550,0
Environmental and Social Risk Assessments and Safeguards	12500	2900	7500	2500	1800	27 200,0
Gender and Generational Strategy Development	12500	2900	6000		1500	22 900,0
Coordination with Government, Academia, and Innovation Actors	9000	2900	3000	2550	2250	19 700,0
Proposal development and submission	15000	5800	2500			23 300,0
Design of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) mechanism and USP management manuals and procedures	10000	2900	3000	2500	1200	19 600,0
					subtotal	138 250,0
					fee (8,5%)	11 750,0
					total	150 000,0

C. Implementing Entity

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

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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