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

PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION:
AFCIA PROGRAMMES

REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

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

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

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

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
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MULTI/ REGIONAL INNOVATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION[1]

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

[1] Key policy documents: Programme on innovation: operational policy and guidance to the adaptation fund climate innovation accelerator (AFCIA) implementing entities,
Guidance to implementing entities for application of innovation indicators for fully developed project/Programme proposals provides guidance on the new indicators that should be referenced when presenting alignment of project objectives and outcomes with the Fund level strategic outcome for innovation (Outcome 8).

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

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Summary

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

A. Project / Programme Background and Context:

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

Climate Context

2. The Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC (AR6, 2023)[3] and the report 'State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024' by the WMO (2025)[4] confirm that the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is highly exposed and vulnerable to climate change, with impacts that are already being manifested in multiple natural and human systems. Among the main identified risks are tropical cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves, all of which have potential impacts on health, livelihoods, the economy, the environment, and the availability of natural resources. In particular, the growing impact of precipitation variability and extreme temperatures is highlighted, directly affecting agricultural production and compromising food security. The study 'Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Index in Latin America and the Caribbean,' conducted by CAF in 2014[5], highlights the severe consequences that the region could face due to climate change. Given that the region's climate has already begun to experience variations, more significant climate changes are expected in the coming decades. These risks are projected to intensify and become even more serious threats, especially for rural livelihoods, small and medium primary producers, and Indigenous peoples in mountainous areas. The expected effects include a reduction in agricultural and livestock production, loss of arable land, and decreased water availability, severely disrupting supply chains and significantly affecting food availability, income, and the stability of rural livelihoods.
3. The agrifood systems in LAC are highly climate-sensitive, primarily affecting the livelihoods of people who depend directly on these activities (rural communities, small farmers, fishers). Agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing, represent 7% of the regional GDP and 14% of employment (2019 data)[6]. According to FAO (2016)[7], between 2003 and 2013, the primary sector in the region absorbed 16% of the losses and damage caused by natural disasters. Of this total, 6% corresponded to damages in physical assets, while 23% was related to production losses and direct impacts on livelihoods. Within the

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

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

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

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

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

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sector, crops accounted for 71% of the impacts, followed by forests (13%), livestock (10%), and fishing (6%). Floods were responsible for 55% of these losses, followed by droughts (27%) and storms (10%). On average, sector growth was reduced by 2.7% annually due to climate disasters during this period.

4. Between 2005 and 2015, the FAO (2018)[8] estimates that over 22 billion dollars were lost in the region due to decreased agricultural and livestock production attributed to extreme climate events, with droughts being the costliest, accounting for an estimated 13 billion dollars in losses.
5. The WMO (2025)[9] indicates that in 2024, in Central America and the Caribbean, abnormally high temperatures increased the incidence of pests and diseases, which multiplied costs for farmers with limited investment capacity. This was compounded by water shortages for irrigation, due to irregular rainfall associated with the El Niño phenomenon, followed by intense rainfall that delayed planting dates, reduced incomes, and increased losses from floods and landslides. Additionally, hurricanes Beryl, Oscar, and Rafael caused significant damage to both producers and the food supply. More recently, in October 2025, Hurricane Melissa devastated extensive agricultural areas in Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti, destroying crops, affecting fisheries, and leaving rural communities without livelihoods, highlighting the enormous impact that extreme events can have on the agricultural sector. In South America, droughts and wildfires severely impacted crops, pastures, forests, and fishing communities, affecting dairy production, and delaying the planting of various crops. At the same time, other countries in the region experienced river floods that led to major losses in crops, livestock, and fishing. The El Niño phenomenon also affected marine fishing in 11 of the 19 main fishing areas identified by the FAO. The impacts were both negative and positive, varying by geographic areas, target species, and types of fishing or aquaculture.
6. Ortiz-Bobea et al. (2021) [10], for their part, estimate that the slowdown in total factor productivity growth in the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean has resulted in a 25.9% decline since 1961 due to climate change.
7. A study by the IDB (2020)[11] projects that by 2050, regional agricultural production could decrease by 7.5 percentage points (pp), the planted area by 1.2 pp, and production by 5.2 pp, compared to a scenario without climate change. These projections would result in higher prices, trade deficits in the food market, and a decline below the critical ratio between food supply and demand.
8. In 2023, 28.2% of the population in the region (187.6 million people) suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity. This regional prevalence was below the global estimate; however, the figure rises to 58.8% in the Caribbean[12]. Severe food insecurity affected 8.7% of the population in the region (58.1 million people), and in the Caribbean, the prevalence was 28.6% (12.8 million people). Although significant progress was made in reducing the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity —which decreased for the second consecutive year— significant inequalities persist, with marked differences between subregions and population subgroups. The gender gap in moderate or severe food insecurity in LAC was 5.2 percentage points (pp) in 2023, compared to a gap of 1.3 pp globally. Additionally, this form of food insecurity was 6.2 pp higher in rural areas than in urban areas of the region. In 2022, LAC recorded the highest average cost in the world for a healthy diet, estimated at USD 4.56 in purchasing power parity (PPP) per person per day. The Caribbean was the subregion with the highest cost within the region, at USD 5.16 PPP per person per day.[13]
9. In this context of reduced agricultural productivity, disruptions in supply chains, rising food prices, and lower access to healthy diets, ensuring food security and the stability of rural livelihoods will require sustainably increasing agricultural production, not only by boosting productivity but also by protecting and regenerating key ecosystem services essential for the sector's resilience.
10. Considering these challenges, the Adaptation Fund's AFCIA program represents a strategic opportunity to support innovative, locally driven solutions that enhance the adaptive capacity of productive sectors to climate change. Its approach aligns closely with CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy[14], which prioritizes sustainable productivity, climate resilience,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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and improved rural well-being across its member countries, providing a regional framework to guide investment, innovation, and adaptation actions in the agricultural sector, as well as FONTAGRO's Medium-Term Plan (2025/2030)[15], whose agenda focuses on sustainability, resilience, and equity in the LAC agrifood sector.

Vulnerability of the agricultural sector in LAC

11. In the region, rural inclusion and resilience are threatened by persistent issues such as rural poverty and structural inequality, as well as by emerging factors that influence resource allocation, including climate change, environmental degradation, gender inequalities, agrifood system transitions, and rapid technological change[16]. In LAC, the effects of climate change will be amplified by these inequalities and by the persistence of poverty[17], in a context where the region faces a double burden of hunger and malnutrition, and where food security shows strong territorial and socioeconomic disparities.

Family farming and land tenure

12. The region is characterized by high levels of land fragmentation —with a predominance of small agricultural holdings— and by an unequal distribution of land combined with frequently informal tenure. This set of factors increases productivity gaps, limits access to credit, and reduces investment opportunities for smaller-scale producers, which in turn hinders rural development and climate-adaptation capacity.
13. In this context, family farming constitutes a central social and economic pillar of the agrifood systems in LAC[18]. It represents 81.4% of agricultural holdings and occupies 25.3% of the agricultural area[19]. Agriculture continues to be the main source of rural employment, accounting for 52.5% of total rural employment in 2021 (ECLAC, 2023). Moreover, family farms occupy 80% of agricultural land and produce 77% of the region's food[20], underscoring their importance for food security and territorial resilience.
14. However, family farming has a highly heterogeneous and unequal structure, with farms of different sizes, subsectors, and levels of technical and productive capacity —including subsistence, transitional, and consolidated units— which face distinct challenges and needs[21]. The distribution pattern accentuates this heterogeneity: 62.7% of all farms in the region are five hectares or smaller, while only 4.5% exceed 100 hectares; however, the latter account for nearly 80% of the total land area occupied by farms.

Labor informality and rural poverty

15. Vulnerable rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean are characterized by high levels of economic and labor informality, limited economic autonomy for women, and significant financing and gender gaps. These structural conditions amplify vulnerability to climate change and reduce the capacity of rural households to anticipate, absorb, and recover from extreme climate events.
16. Rural labor informality averages 68.5% in the region, according to ILO and ECLAC estimates[22], meaning that roughly seven out of ten workers lack formal contracts, social security, and legal protection. Informality is closely linked to persistent poverty: over half of the rural population lives below the poverty line[23], and among poor rural households, less than half have access to formal employment; in some contexts, only 2% manage to enter the formal labor market[24]. This situation

[15] FONTRAGRO 2025. Plan de Mediano Plazo (2025/2030). Available at: PMP_2025_2030_ESP_1b20df2b10.pdf
[16] FAO, 2025. Inclusive rural transformations in Latin America Reassessing and planning under pressures and constraints. FAO Inclusive Agrifood Systems Working Papers No. 2. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd4580en
[17] IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). 2022. Fact Sheet: Central and South America – Climate Change Impacts and Risks. (IPCC Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.) Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FactSheet_CentralSouthAmerica.pdf
[18] Family farming is a way of organizing agricultural, forestry, fishery, livestock and aquaculture production that is managed and administered by a family and depends mainly on the capital and labour of its members, both women and men. The family and the farm are interrelated, evolve together and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions (FAO and IFAD, 2019).
[19] FAO. 2025. Characterization of family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges, evidence and perspectives. Santiago, FAO. Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3788en
[20] Ibidem
[21] Ibidem
[22] OIT-CEPAL. 2023. Dinámicas del mercado de trabajo rural y el empleo informal en la pospandemia. Coyuntura laboral en América Latina y El Caribe.
[23] CEPAL. 21 de Agosto de 2012. CEPAL. Available at: https://surl.li/faiwmj
[24] CEPAL-OIT-FAO. 2012. Políticas de mercado de trabajo y pobreza rural en América Latina. Santiago de Chile: CEPAL.

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limits productive investment capacity, reduces access to technology and services, and increases exposure to climate-related losses.

Gender disparities and agricultural inequalities

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

Informality and gaps in specific sectors

23. Forestry: In the forestry sector, labor informality is also widespread. Although it represents a smaller portion of rural employment, forestry activities—particularly in native forests of the Amazon, the Andes, and tropical areas—are characterized by precarious conditions, limited regulation, and high occupational risks.
24. At the global level, the ILO classifies forestry as one of the most hazardous sectors with high levels of informality. In several countries in the region, a significant portion of timber extraction is carried out informally or illegally. The lack of precise data

[25] Ibidem
[26] United Nations (UN) and Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) Latin America and the Caribbean. 2024. Gender Equality Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-05/en-regionalgenderprofile-lac_vf.pdf
[27] Between 1994 and 2010, 12 training voucher programmes for microenterprises were implemented in various Latin American countries, with modalities and content relevant to all microenterprises. In all cases, the participation of women was around 80%. Even in the remaining 20%, young people predominated. These programmes reached millions of people in total, with an offer of between 100 and 200 training institutions, which provided between 900 and 1300 different courses, depending on the country.

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makes it difficult to quantify informality accurately, but there is technical consensus that it is high, particularly in logging, transportation, and artisanal sawmilling activities in remote areas.

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

Financing gaps

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

Gaps in innovation for agricultural resilience in LAC

35. The IDB report 'Unleashing Innovation: Assessment of the Role of Agricultural R&D in Latin America and the Caribbean' (2023)[30] states that, despite the proven high returns of agricultural R&D&I (research and development and innovation), countries in the region continue to lag behind in allocating adequate resources to this strategic sector. The region has low

[28] SELA. 7 de 12 de 2021. SELA. Obtenido de Degradación ambiental amenaza el empleo en América Latina: https://surl.li/pgusik
[29] CEPAL. Available at: https://www.cepal.org/en/projects/financial-inclusion-smes/background#A4
[30] BID, 2023. Desatando la innovación: Evaluación del papel de la I+D agropecuaria en América Latina y el Caribe / Alejandro Nin-Pratt, Gert-Jan Stads, Luis de los Santos, Gonzalo Muñoz.

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agricultural innovation capacity, with an average score of 0.35 on the Innovation Capacity Index (ICI). This index measures both the supply (scientific and technological infrastructure) and the demand (adoption of knowledge in the sector). Regional inequality is high: while countries like Chile exceed the average due to their institutional quality and human capital, others like Argentina and Brazil, despite their investment, show gaps in innovation policy.

36. The report concludes that the historical underinvestment in agricultural R&D&I and innovation, especially in smaller countries or those with low institutional capacity, limits the response to increasing climate risks. Additionally, the role of the private sector remains nascent in most countries; public agencies and international cooperation continue to be the main sources of innovation. Across the region, the public sector is the main employer of agricultural researchers, with 50% of all research carried out by government institutions, followed by higher education (38%) and non-profit organizations (12%). Moreover, significant gender disparities persist in research capacity across all countries; in 2020, women accounted for only about 26% of agricultural researchers.
37. The report's recommendations include the integration of research institutions into national science, technology, and innovation systems aligned with agri-food value chains; the strengthening of human and institutional capacities; the promotion of regional partnerships; and the establishment of more flexible and sustainable financing systems.
38. In its first phase, the AFCIA program, implemented by UNEP, financed four incubators in the Bahamas, Ecuador, Suriname, and Guatemala, and two technological accelerators in Honduras and Saint Kitts and Nevis. While three of these projects included components related to agriculture and food security, the greatest emphasis was placed on other key areas for climate adaptation: five projects addressed disaster risk reduction, four focused on water management, and three worked with climate data.[31]
39. Some initiatives related to innovation and adaptation for the agricultural sector being promoted in the region include those of FONTAGRO[32], which annually launches open and competitive calls to cofinance innovation networks with a multi-country, multi-actor, and multidisciplinary approach in LAC. These initiatives address the major challenges of agri-food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, generating solutions with regional impact and global projection. Another interesting initiative is the SCALA project, 'Climate Ambition to Improve Land Use and Agriculture,' by UNDP, which responds to the urgent need to increase measures to address the impacts of climate change in the agriculture and land use sectors.
40. These programs highlight the urgent need to increase investment in agricultural innovation to enhance resilience and food security in LAC, as current funding levels remain insufficient to address growing climate risks.
41. The following Table 1 presents the main characteristics of relevant innovation-related initiatives in the region.

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

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

[31] UNDP (n.d.). AFCIA dashboard. Available at: https://www.adaptation-undp.org/afcia/dashboard
[32] For more information see: https://fontagro.org/es/historias-de-impacto/adaptacion-agricultura-cambio-climatico-lac

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

Lessons learned from innovation projects

43. From the study on the successful cases competition 'Impact Innovations: Lessons on Climate Change Adaptation in Family Farming in LAC,' by FONTAGRO-IDB-IICAD,[33] seven operational lessons for working with communities on climate risk adaptation can be derived:
    1. **Active participation of family farmers:** Continuous involvement of farmers in problem identification, solution design, and field validation is essential to ensure the relevance and sustainability of innovations. Early participation strengthens the sense of ownership and facilitates territorial scaling.
    2. **Interinstitutional organization and coordination:** Collaboration among producer organizations, public institutions, the private sector, and research centers is essential for implementing complex innovations. Integrated approaches—combining local capacities with specialized technical assistance—maximize impact and replicability.
    3. **Capacity building and local leadership:** Continuous, hands-on training is critical for technological adoption. Developing local leaders helps consolidate community self-learning processes and ensures the sustainability of interventions by replicating experiences in new communities.
    4. **Appropriate technologies and knowledge:** Combining traditional knowledge with scientific research and international experiences has proven especially effective. Adapting global technologies and practices to local conditions generates high-impact, low-cost solutions with strong potential for scaling.
    5. **Technical assistance and credit:** Projects that combine specialized technical support with appropriate credit achieve higher adoption rates and better productive outcomes. This integration reduces risks, facilitates investment in resilient crops and pastures, and demonstrates the economic viability of climate innovations.
    6. **Prominent role of women:** Incorporating a gender perspective enhances the effectiveness and reach of initiatives. In many cases, women act as key agents in the adoption and dissemination of technologies, contributing to greater social, economic, and environmental benefits.
    7. **Comprehensive approaches and value chains:** Interventions that address adaptation in a holistic manner—from production to marketing—achieve higher returns and sustainability. Diversifying activities and adding value at different links of the chain strengthen the economic resilience of family farming against climate change.

Barriers to Agricultural Sector Adaptation in LAC

44. According to the IPCC (2022)[34], the main barriers faced by agricultural producers in LAC for climate change adaptation are related to the lack of financing and gaps in access to site-specific adaptation knowledge and training. Climate change requires advancing initiatives to improve education, technology, and innovation in agricultural systems in the region.
45. In this regard, CAF's Agricultural Prosperity Strategy (2025)[35] identifies a set of structural barriers that limit both climate adaptation and innovation in the agricultural sector of LAC:

- Insufficient financing to enable risk-taking and foster R&D&I in the agricultural sector: Investment in infrastructure, science, and technology remains insufficient in the region. For example, LAC accounts for only 2% of global R&D investment, well below North America and Europe (51%) or Asia (39%). In most countries, except Brazil, investment in science and technology does not exceed 1% of GDP. In addition, the limited availability of innovative and flexible financial instruments restricts access for small producers and vulnerable value chains to climate and technological financing mechanisms. The LAC region faces a structural barrier to financing agricultural innovation, characterized by low, volatile, and unsustainable

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

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

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

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levels of investment in R&D&I. At the same time, most countries invest less than USD 20 million annually, and relative investment levels are also very low: except for Panama (1.12% of Agricultural GDP, AgGDP) and Costa Rica (0.87%), no country reaches the recommended minimum threshold of investing at least 1% of AgGDP in R&D&I. Five countries allocate even less than 0.25%.36 The result is a fragile regional innovation system, with capacities that cannot be consolidated or respond effectively to the challenges of agricultural productivity and resilient development.

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

46. In addition, the Strategy identifies nine main challenges for the agricultural sector in the region: the need for policies that comprehensively address structural inequality and the vulnerability of territories and communities; the need for a transition towards low-emission, climate-resilient production processes; insufficient investment levels in infrastructure and technological innovation; the need to strengthen capacity in sectoral institutions, among others.

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

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



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

Institutional Responses and Regional Commitments

49. The CAF 2023 Economy and Development Report (RED), 'Global Challenges, Regional Solutions: Latin America and the Caribbean Facing the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis,' emphasizes three key messages for all countries: the importance of adaptation, the need to contribute to global mitigation, and the urgency of preserving natural capital as a key factor in the development process. It also highlights that policies to address these challenges may vary according to the diversity of resources and risks in each country, with potential tensions between opposing objectives and synergies that must be leveraged.
50. The financing needs to achieve development, climate, and biodiversity preservation goals are 0.28% of the region's annual GDP by 2030[38]. Therefore, CAF has committed to increasing green financing to a minimum of 40% of its financial approvals by 2026 and to being one of the most active institutions in the region in mobilizing resources from major green funds and international partners.
51. Within the framework of the Adaptation Fund, CAF has implemented projects in Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, and Uruguay. These interventions have successfully involved local governments from the earliest stages of the process, allowing them to define, prioritize, design, and directly implement adaptation actions. With other climate funds such as the GCF, CAF is currently implementing climate change adaptation projects in the agricultural sector, such as the project: 'Climate-Smart Initiatives for Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability in Agricultural Production Systems – CSICAP' in Colombia, or the program 'Climate Change: The New Evolutionary Challenge for the Galápagos Archipelago' in Ecuador.
52. These initiatives, along with others approved or currently underway with the support of international funds such as the GEF, have significantly contributed to strengthening institutional capacities, enabling sustained management of long-term adaptation projects, and consolidating their experience in the design and implementation of measures aimed at the agricultural sector.
53. Nature-based economies, including both food and non-food agricultural products, are emerging as a key opportunity for the sustainable development of the region and the world. It is estimated that this market will reach USD 7.7 billion globally by 2030 (Lesenfants et al., 2024).

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

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54. The sustainable transformation of the agricultural sector in the region requires innovative policies focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity preservation, and strengthening productivity with social equity and the inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples.
55. The report 'Situation and Prospects of the Agricultural Sector in LAC 2023-2024' (ECLAC, FAO, IICA, 2023) underscores the importance of regional cooperation to face these challenges and transform agri-food systems into more resilient and sustainable models. This requires policies that improve food security, promote innovation, and strengthen resilience to current and future challenges.
56. FONTAGRO's 2025–2030 Medium-Term Plan emphasizes that, in a scenario of increasing climate risks, science, technology, and innovation systems constitute the first line of defense for the agricultural sector, as they provide solutions that reduce losses, increase productivity, and strengthen resilience. Innovations such as advanced biotechnology, digital agriculture, remote sensing, predictive models, gene editing, and artificial intelligence are already transforming the efficient use of water, soils, and nutrients. However, FAO warns that their adoption shows strong asymmetries across countries and territories, revealing significant gaps in infrastructure, human capacities, and governance mechanisms that limit the scale and sustainability of these solutions. In response, the Plan organizes FONTAGRO's institutional action into six Flagship Programs aimed at transforming crops and livestock systems, modernizing extension and technology transfer, advancing digitalization and robotics applied to agriculture, developing the future food basket, and formulating evidence-based policies. These programs provide a roadmap for mobilizing innovation, scaling proven solutions, and generating regional public goods that strengthen food security and climate resilience.
57. In this context, FONTAGRO commits to prioritizing interventions with direct on-the-ground impact and high replication potential—including climate-stress-tolerant varieties, sustainable soil and water management practices, digital agriculture, and early warning systems—which are fundamental for the transition toward climate-smart and inclusive agriculture.

B. Project / Programme Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project/program.

58. The program 'Agroclimatic Innovation Accelerator for Adaptation through Science-Community Partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean' has the following general objective:
    - To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers[39], with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.
59. The program also aims to contribute to the following specific objectives:
    - Provide financial support to strengthen partnerships between research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and producer organizations to co-design, test, and accelerate innovative adaptation solutions in vulnerable rural areas of LAC (Component 1).
    - Strengthen the technical capacities of innovation-developing institutions and community change agents to co-design, implement, validate, and scale adaptation solutions (Component 2).
    - Promote the systematization and dissemination of knowledge on innovation in climate change adaptation, generating opportunities for scaling and replicating innovative solutions (Component 3).
60. The program is built by leveraging FONTAGRO's solid experience, with more than 25 years of work in incubating and accelerating agricultural innovation initiatives in LAC. FONTAGRO has in-depth knowledge of the sector's actors in the region and has established mechanisms, tools, and networks to connect institutions and producer organizations that will benefit from this program.

C. Project / Programme Components and Financing:

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

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

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

Table 2. Financing by component

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

D. Projected Calendar:

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

Table 3. Programme calendar

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

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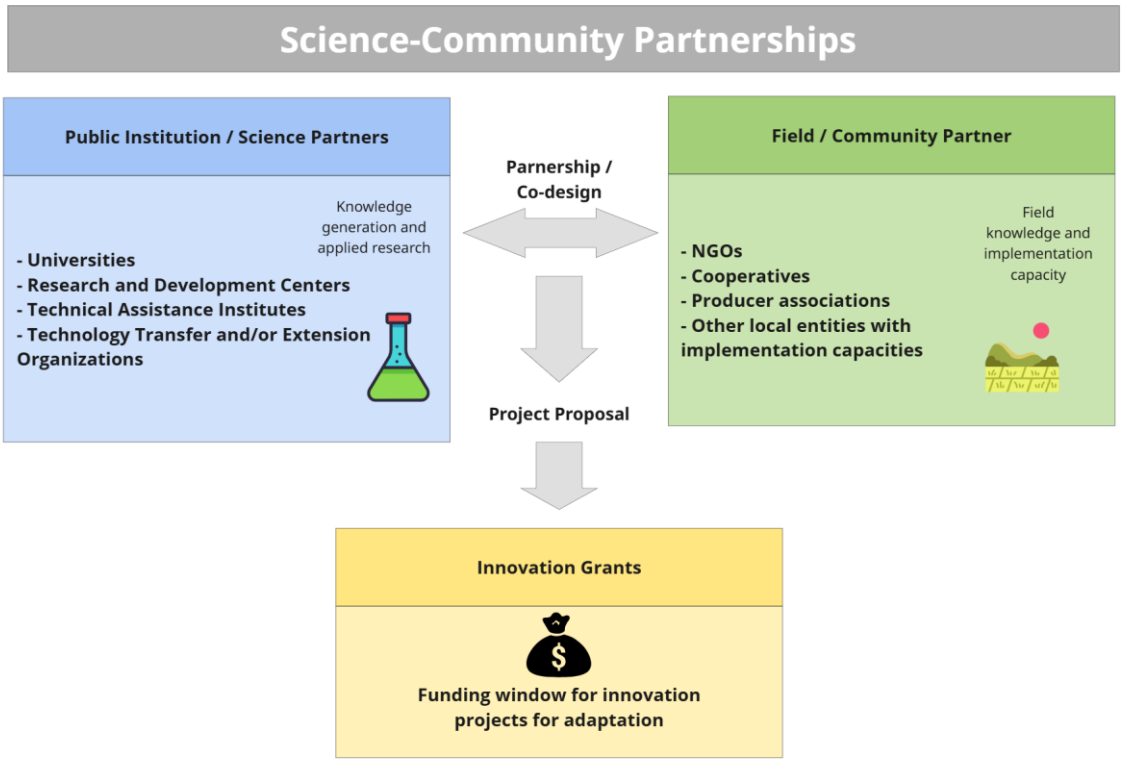
PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Project/program components

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

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

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



63. Programme Theory of Change: The program aims to overcome the main barriers to climate adaptation and risk management in Latin America and the Caribbean, based on the premise that if the capacities of small- and medium-scale producers are strengthened, specific financial support is provided to innovative climate adaptation initiatives, and

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partnerships are fostered between research institutions, technical assistance or extension services, and producer groups implementing pilot projects, then agricultural innovations in LAC will be accelerated and validated on the ground for scaling and replication. This will enhance climate resilience and contribute to increasing the adaptive capacity of agricultural producers. This will be possible because the available financing will reduce the risk of advancing and implementing innovations, the capacities of agricultural sector actors in adaptation and climate resilience will be strengthened, more evidence on suitable adaptation innovations will be captured, and the results of innovations will be disseminated to promote the scaling and replication of appropriate and innovative practices. See Figure 3.

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

Operational Workflow for Innovation Projects

71. Figure 4 illustrates the stepwise process through which proposals will be received, assessed, refined with technical assistance, and approved for implementation, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Innovation Pillar and the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy requirements.
72. This approach combines proportional safeguards screening at the application stage with progressive strengthening during incubation, ensuring both rigor and accessibility for local actors, while establishing clear decision points prior to final approval and first disbursement.
73. The program will apply the principle of proportionality in screening and documentation requirements at the application stage, ensuring that the information requested is sufficient for the PMU and the evaluation panel to approve proposals, without compromising compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). In this regard, the project incorporates gender criteria into the proposal selection process. The requirements for these criteria include the direct participation of women and priority groups in training, technical assistance, and exchange

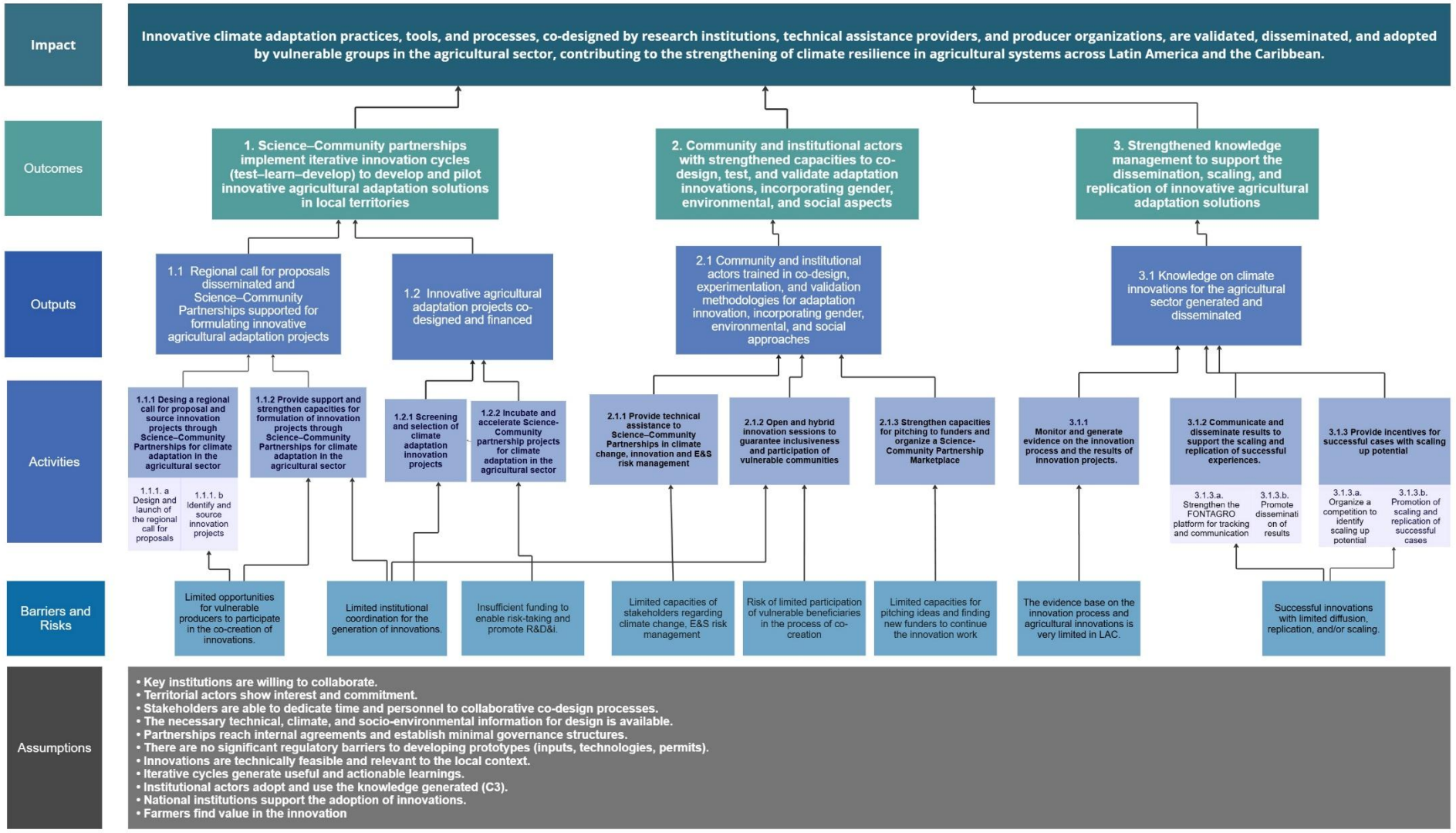
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programs; the representation of these groups in governance and decision-making structures; and the substantial participation of women in technical and community roles. See section U for further information.

74. FONTAGRO will play a key role in the design and implementation of the call for proposals, building on nearly three decades of experience managing competitive research and innovation calls across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Since its establishment in 1998, FONTAGRO has implemented transparent, merit-based, and open competitive funding mechanisms that have supported hundreds of collaborative projects involving national agricultural research institutions, universities, international organizations, and private-sector partners throughout the region.
75. These processes are governed by the FONTAGRO Operations Manual, which provides the institutional framework for the project cycle, including call design and dissemination, eligibility requirements, proposal submission procedures, evaluation methodologies, project selection, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and closure.
76. Consistent with this framework, project proposals submitted under the AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO call will be evaluated through a transparent and merit-based process involving independent external experts and predefined technical, scientific, financial, institutional, environmental, social, and gender-related criteria. These criteria will be established in the call documents and evaluation matrices, in line with the FONTAGRO Operations Manual and complemented, where appropriate, by additional requirements agreed with CAF, the Adaptation Fund, IICA, and other implementing partners. This will ensure a rigorous, objective, and well-documented selection process based on merit, feasibility, compliance, and expected adaptation impact.
77. Eligible proposals will be assessed by an independent External Evaluation Panel, which will review, score, rank, and recommend proposals for financing. The final financing decision will be adopted jointly by the AFCIA Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO, based on the technical recommendations of the External Evaluation Panel.

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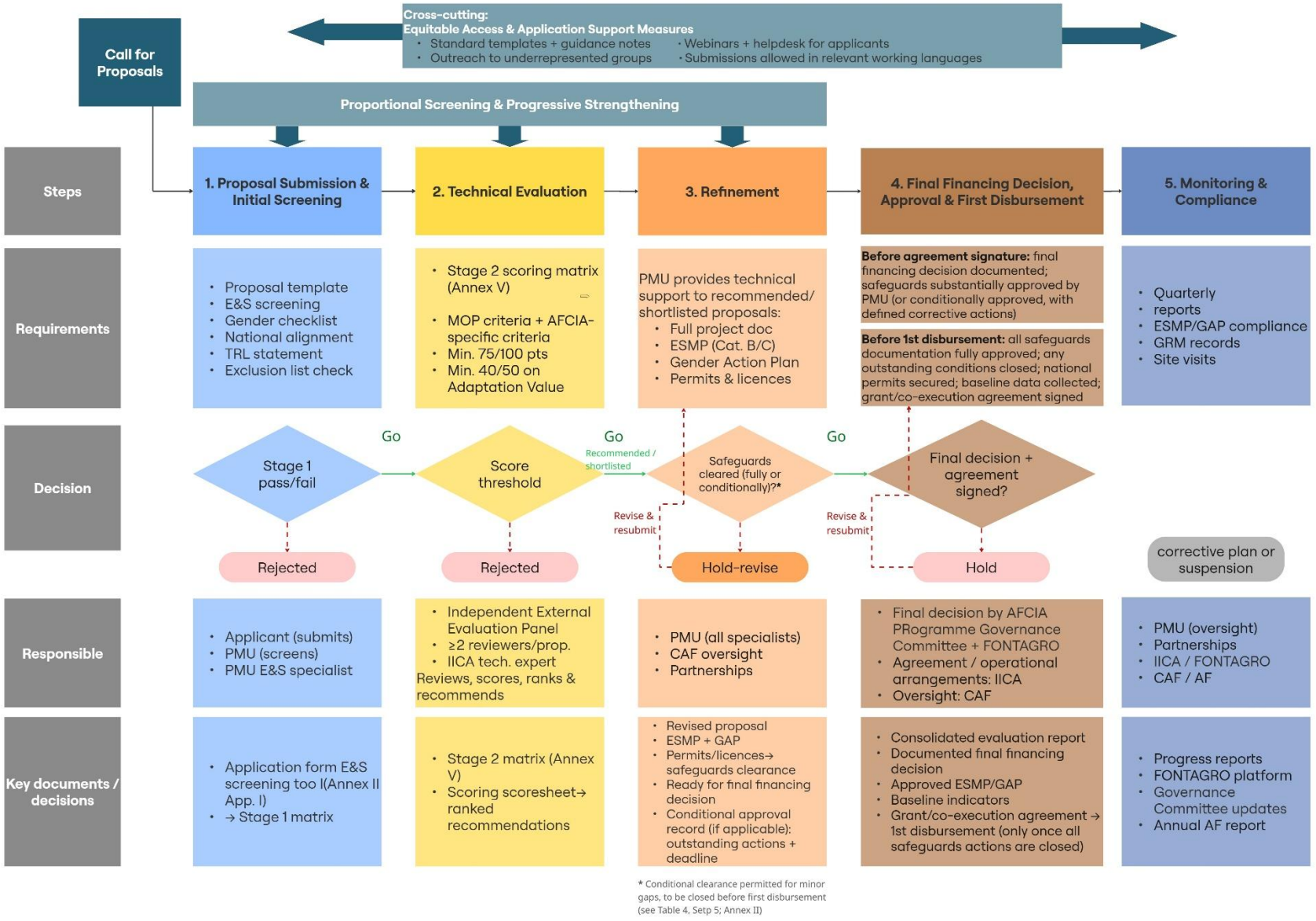
Figure 3: Program Theory of Change



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

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

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

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

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

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

[41] Same considerations as in the preceding footnote.

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11. Mid-term & Final Evaluation	Independent external evaluation of program and project results	Independent evaluators (contracted by CAF); PMU	Full program data; project evidence logs; beneficiary data; cost-effectiveness metrics	—	Evaluation reports submitted to AF

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Component 1. Climate Innovation Accelerator for the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in LAC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activity 1.2.1 Screening and selection of climate adaptation innovation projects

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

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

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

Table 5. Stage 1 – Eligibility & Adaptation Screening criteria

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

99. **Second stage: Technical Evaluation and Scoring**: proposals will be assessed using the evaluation matrix presented in Annex V, in which adaptation relevance and expected climate resilience outcomes are treated as the core priority and receive the highest weighting. Complementary criteria include innovation and delivery, technological readiness, scalability, feasibility, economic, environmental, social and gender benefits, institutional capacity, complementarity, cost-effectiveness, among other to strengthen the likelihood of delivering effective, sustainable, and scalable adaptation outcomes. The Adaptation Value Core section accounts for 50 points out of the total score (100) and requires a minimum of 40 points as the adaptation threshold (see Table 6).

100. During the screening stage, proposals will be required to explicitly reference the national priorities they address, and this alignment will form part of the eligibility and adaptation screening criteria applied by the PMU at Stage 1 (Step 2 of Table 4), consistent with Annex V. Only alignment claims that pass Stage 1 will be considered by the Independent External Evaluation Panel during Stage 2 technical scoring.. National authorities will not participate in proposal scoring or selection decisions, thereby preserving the independence, objectivity, and technical integrity of the evaluation process, while ensuring strong country.

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101. As established in the Eligibility and Adaptation Screening stage, alignment with national or subnational adaptation priorities is assessed based on the availability of formal instruments or, where these are absent or outdated, through alternative credible and officially recognized sources. Proposals that successfully meet this requirement at screening proceed to the Technical Evaluation and Scoring stage, where assessment focuses on the quality, feasibility, and scalability of the proposed innovation. This ensures a clear separation between eligibility screening and technical evaluation, maintaining consistency in the assessment of adaptation relevance across the selection process. These criteria will be further detailed in the Terms of Reference of the call to be prepared under Activity 1.1.1, in line with Programme operational guidelines and applicable Adaptation Fund policies

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

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

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Subtotal		**40**
Institutional Capabilities (10 points)		
Institutional and technical team capacity & alignment	Experience, governance, and alignment with project objectives	5
Capacity Building, training strategy	Quality and feasibility of the capacity-building plan, including target groups, delivery approach, and contribution to adoption, gender equity and social inclusion and sustainability.	2,5
Duplication & Complementarity	Ensure scope, geography, beneficiaries, and innovation stage do not duplicate efforts; assess complementarity with existing initiatives	2,5
Subtotal		**10**
Total Score: 100 points		**100**

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

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

103. This activity involves providing financing for incubating and/or accelerating at least 20 climate adaptation projects developed by Science-Community Partnerships, which will receive small grants of up to USD 250,000 each. The grant ceiling of up to USD 250,000 applies to all selected projects, regardless of whether they enter the incubation or acceleration phase. Applicants in both pathways may request funding up to this ceiling, with final approved amounts determined on a case-by-case basis based on technical readiness, scope of activities, cost-effectiveness, and capacity to generate measurable climate resilience outcomes.

104. To strengthen financial accountability and ensure the appropriate use of resources, all approved projects are required to submit a detailed Procurement Plan prior to project initiation. This plan specifies eligible expenditure categories, budget allocations, procurement procedures, and maximum funding thresholds by category. The Procurement Plan serves as a key control mechanism to prevent the diversion of funds toward non-approved purposes, such as infrastructure improvements or other expenditures outside the project's approved scope. The Programme does not establish fixed budget allocations by innovation stage; rather, the budget structure responds to the technical and operational needs of each individual project, regardless of whether it enters the incubation or acceleration pathway. Project implementation is further supported through continuous technical and financial monitoring, periodic reporting, and external audits when required.

105. Depending on the maturity of each proposal and the extent to which it meets the requirements and criteria established for the call (Section G), as assessed by the Evaluation Panel, some projects may enter incubation processes, while the remaining projects will proceed directly to the acceleration process.

106. The activity will be supported by a broad dissemination campaign to promote access and equity among diverse groups (Subactivity 1.1.1.b), and will include capacity-building sessions (Activity 1.1.2) with webinars, consultations, and awareness-raising to ensure the informed participation of all stakeholders (both researchers and producers) and to strengthen the quality of submitted proposals, including topics such as environmental and social safeguards, gender aspects and compliance with the requirements of the call for proposals. Concurrently, the Programme will provide centralized technical assistance through Component 2 to all selected projects at no additional cost to the project teams. This technical assistance will operate as a distinct programme-level resource, separate from individual project grant financing, and will be tailored to the maturity stage and implementation needs of each project. It will also support partnerships in applying the programme's gender-responsive monitoring requirements, including the collection of disaggregated data and the tracking of outcome-level indicators related to women's leadership, technical engagement in innovation processes, and access to innovation-related resources and opportunities.

107. Selected projects will receive differentiated support according to their technological readiness levels (TRL): incubation for early-stage initiatives (TRL 4) and acceleration for initiatives in advanced phases (TRL 5–8). That is, in the acceleration phase, projects at TRL 5 to TRL 8 maturity levels will be supported (see Table 7). The objective is to strengthen their design, advance their technological maturity, reinforce the solution, and ensure conditions for effective and scalable implementation. The degree of advancement of the innovation proposed by each project or prototype will be a key criterion for its evaluation and potential approval in the accelerator.

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108. Proposals presenting a minimum prototype maturity level of TRL 4 will be supported for incubation and subsequently progress toward acceleration. This combination of stages will allow the development of a functional prototype to be completed and its practical validation through small-scale pilot testing of technologies or practices aimed at climate change adaptation, thereby reaching a maturity level equivalent to TRL 5.

109. During incubation and acceleration, grantees will be required to integrate structured beneficiary feedback mechanisms—such as user testing, participatory validation workshops, and adoption assessments—into their implementation plans. Advancement to higher TRLs and transition from incubation to acceleration will be contingent upon demonstrated evidence of usability, acceptance, and relevance to end users, not solely on technical performance. This adaptive management approach ensures that innovation maturity is directly linked to social uptake and real-world applicability, thereby reinforcing locally led, inclusive, and scalable adaptation outcomes in line with the Adaptation Fund's innovation and gender mandates.

110. To guarantee the effective participation of communities and beneficiaries, the PMU will monitor local relevance through continuous monitoring, periodic progress reports (in accordance with the FONTAGRO Operations Manual), field visits, or community interviews when necessary. In these reports, the science-community partnerships will demonstrate the joint activities carried out and how beneficiary feedback is incorporated into the project's development. This reporting will also capture sex-, age-, and ethnicity-disaggregated information and qualitative evidence on women's participation in testing and validation processes, women's leadership and decision-making roles within the partnership, and women's access to innovation-related resources and opportunities, in line with the Gender Action Plan. This operational mechanism serves as the pivot for decision-making defining the transition between the incubation (TRL 4) and acceleration (TRL 5-8) stages, guiding the course of each project through three specific pathways: first, **progression** toward acceleration will be triggered when monitoring, reports, and/or field verifications demonstrate high usability and community approval, justifying the allocation of funds for scaling; second, **adjustment** will be mandatory when local feedback identifies technical, cultural, or gender barriers, requiring the project to undergo an **adjustment cycle** to incorporate user demands before re-evaluating its advancement; and third, **discontinuation** will be executed when monitoring reveals structural adoption barriers or an insurmountable lack of social relevance, in which case the PMU will request the suspension of funding for the subproject and will systematize the results as lessons learned for the program's knowledge base. The evidence generated through this mechanism will also support programme-level analysis of how women's participation, leadership, and access to innovation-related resources contribute to the usability, uptake, and adaptation relevance of supported innovations.

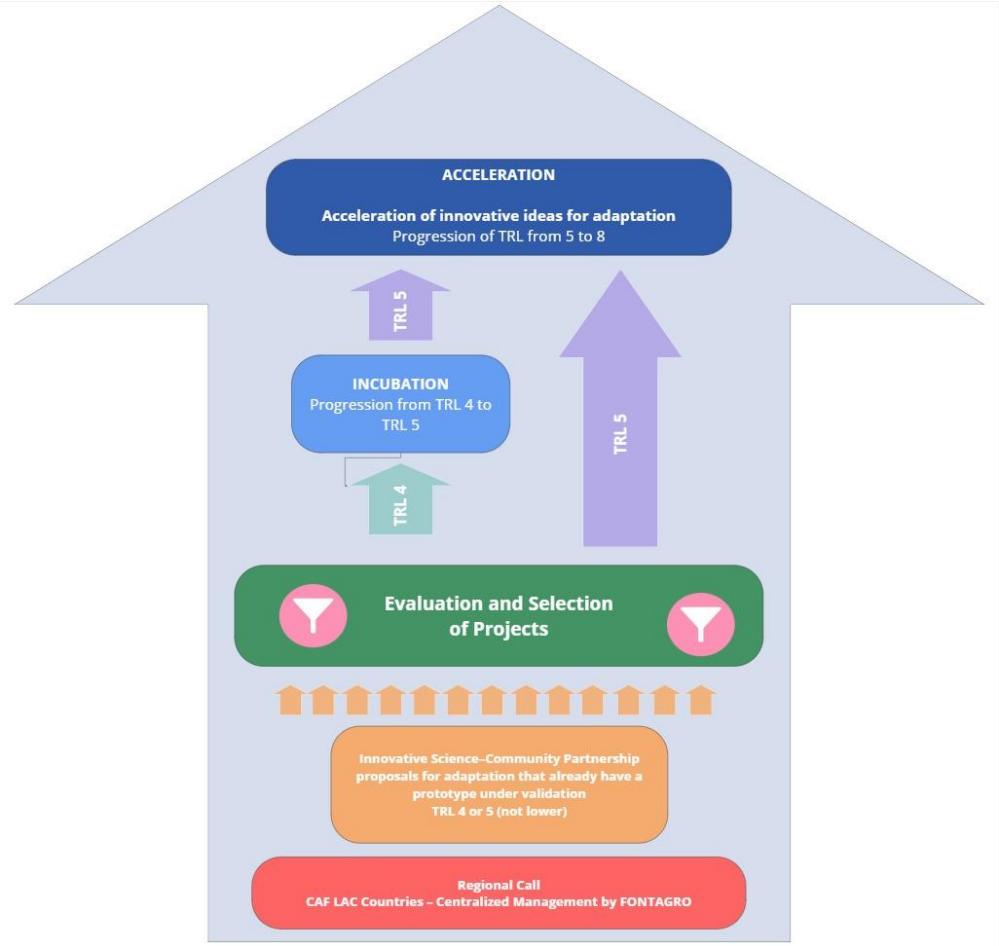
Table 7. Characteristics of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

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

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

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



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

Component 2. Capacity strengthening for beneficiaries of innovation projects.

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

116. Through this outcome, it is expected to achieve enabling conditions in terms of the capacities of the actors involved in the innovation process. This outcome seeks to generate improvements in the practical capacities of institutional and community actors on issues related to anticipated and current climate impacts, innovative solutions for agricultural adaptation, cross-cutting issues such as gender, environmental and social considerations, cost-effectiveness, learning cycles, testing and validation, as well as the identification of indicators for monitoring and generating relevant evidence on

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innovations for climate adaptation. It is anticipated that through multi-actor training and exchange spaces, actors will be able to increase their knowledge and improve their practices, thereby strengthening their capacities. The results chain assumptions underpinning the ToC include that stakeholders participate in the capacity-building sessions, increase their knowledge, and apply this knowledge to improve their innovation practices and projects. This outcome aligns with Outcome 3 of the Adaptation Fund: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

124. Capacity-building efforts under this activity will focus on strengthening the ability of Science–Community Partnerships to effectively present their innovation projects to potential funders and to apply to identified funding opportunities that could support the scaling or replication of successful adaptation solutions. Support will include guidance on articulating innovation value, results, and scaling pathways in line with funder requirements.
125. A Science–Community Partnership Marketplace will be organized, bringing together selected projects with potential funders and strategic partners through a virtual format. The marketplace will provide a structured space for partnerships to showcase results, exchange knowledge, and explore opportunities for future phases, replication, or scale-up.
126. The FONTAGRO digital platform will support this process by enabling projects to systematically compile their results and generate standardized pitching formats highlighting key elements of their innovation projects, including sustainability and scaling plans. These materials will serve as a foundation for targeted capacity strengthening and proposal development, enabling partnerships to refine their pitches and engage more effectively with potential funders and partners.

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

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

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

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

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

132. This activity aims to generate information through the monitoring of projects as required by the Adaptation Fund and to identify and document valuable experiences for their lessons. The activities will include the systematization of experiences and lessons learned from the climate change innovation projects supported by the programme.
133. Support to projects for proper indicator tracking, monitoring and evaluation includes: i) conducting baseline data collection using the call's form and ensuring its compilation; ii) recording evidence on the effectiveness of innovative

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adaptation actions (according to Programme criteria) as well as on the innovation process and stakeholder consultations; and iii) supervising the use of funds and the preparation of progress reports, including key indicators.

134. Additionally, a demand study of the productive sector will be carried out, including a systematic survey of the needs of producers in the region regarding climate change adaptation. This study will generate solid evidence on the sector's specific gaps and priorities, providing a strategic input to guide decisions on scaling and replicating innovative solutions.

135. Through the activities of 3.1.2, these lessons will be disseminated, and strategies will be developed to promote projects for scaling and replication.

136. The Programme will also establish a structured portfolio-level learning mechanism to ensure that lessons from individual Science–Community Partnerships are systematically aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level learning. Each funded project will be required to maintain a simple evidence and learning log, using a harmonized template provided by the PMU. This log will document implementation conditions, adaptation results, user feedback, gender and inclusion outcomes, cost and unit-cost information, barriers encountered, enabling factors, adjustments made through the test–learn–develop cycle, and lessons relevant for replication or scaling.

137. The PMU will periodically review these project-level evidence logs and monitoring data to identify patterns across countries, innovation types, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, and implementation models. This review will support the identification of common success factors, recurrent bottlenecks, contextual conditions for adoption, and practical recommendations for scaling adaptation innovations across the region. The findings will feed into portfolio-level synthesis products, progress reports, knowledge products, policy dialogues, and scaling activities under Activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.

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

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

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

139. Customization of the FONTAGRO platform and Dashboard[42]: The FONTAGRO platform and dashboard will be customized to support systematic tracking, aggregation of the results at the portfolio level, and communication of Programme results in line with Adaptation Fund requirements. Customization will include the integration of indicators related to innovation processes, gender equality, and environmental and social performance, enabling consistent monitoring across all supported projects. The enhanced platform will support portfolio-level analysis by aggregating project results, facilitating the identification of trends, lessons learned, and successful adaptation approaches. In addition, the platform will enable clear visualization and dissemination of evidence on results and impacts, providing a robust basis for knowledge sharing, learning, and the scaling and replication of innovations with demonstrated effectiveness.

140. The enhanced FONTAGRO platform and dashboard will also support the Programme's portfolio-level learning mechanism by enabling the systematic aggregation, tagging, and visualization of project-level evidence. Innovations and knowledge products may be categorized by country, agroecological context, sector, innovation type, target beneficiary group, gender and inclusion focus, adaptation outcome, cost-effectiveness information, and scaling potential. This functionality will facilitate cross-project analysis, identification of emerging lessons, and preparation of audience-specific knowledge products and dashboards for communities, policymakers, investors, development partners, and regional or global knowledge platforms.

Subactivity 3.1.2.b. Promote the dissemination of results.

141. This activity aims to showcase the achievements, lessons learned, and evidence generated through Components 1 and 2 using communication strategies targeted at diverse audiences. Accessible materials will be developed—including translations into indigenous languages where appropriate—to promote the adoption of innovative practices by producers, institutions, and other sector actors. To operationalize this objective, the activity will focus on the systematic production, organization, and dissemination of knowledge and evidence generated by the innovative projects supported under the Programme. Communication and knowledge products will be tailored to different audiences within the innovation ecosystem, ensuring that lessons learned, and evidence inform practice, decision-making, and policy dialogue.

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

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replication opportunities, or linkages with existing or future adaptation programmes and climate finance pipelines to promote uptake and explore financing opportunities for innovations.iParticipation of NIEs will be voluntary and will not constitute a requirement for project implementation, approval, or co-financing. Rather, the annual exchange will serve as a practical mechanism to connect evidence generated by Science–Community Partnerships with national institutions that may be interested in supporting, replicating, scaling, or integrating successful innovations into national adaptation planning, future project design, or other financing opportunities.

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

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

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

B. Contribution to the expected results under the innovation pillar

Describe how the project /programme would contribute meaningfully to the Expected Results under the Innovation Pillar (i.e. (i) New innovations and risk-taking[43] encouraged and accelerated; (ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up; (iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation and (iv) Evidence base generated and shared)

164. The Programme contributes to the 4 expected outcomes within the framework of the innovation pillar:
165. (i) New innovations and risk-taking encouraged and accelerated: The Programme promotes and accelerates the development of climate innovations by funding, coordinating, and supporting collaborative processes among research institutions, technical assistance providers, and community-based producer organizations, enabling solutions at early stages of technological maturity (TRL 4) to advance toward testing and development phases through the iterative test–learn–develop cycle. During the call phase, dissemination and outreach activities will be conducted, and support spaces such as webinars and technical assistance will be offered to foster the dynamic and creative co-creation of proposals. During implementation, the accelerator under Component 1 explicitly promotes experimentation and controlled risk-taking, creating a safe environment for communities and institutions to test new practices, technologies, and adaptation tools without fear of failure, and generating the necessary conditions to advance toward more robust solutions with greater potential impact. This is included as part of the support provided under Component 2 with technical assistance during the design phase, which explicitly contributes to developing monitoring processes, indicators, and cycles for systematizing and discussing lessons learned as part of the proposals submitted by the Partnerships. Additionally, for selected Partnerships, specific indicators will be established to capture not only innovation achievements but also the experimentation and learning process cycle. Component 2 also includes open and hybrid innovation sessions for all Partnerships to foster reflection that

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

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enables learning and internal improvement, while incorporating external contributions from specialists, communities, and relevant actors within the innovation ecosystem.

166. The proposed Programme is closely aligned with the innovation vision adopted by the Adaptation Fund Board (document AFB/B.36/8) and with the objectives and expected outcomes of the Adaptation Fund's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS-II 2023-2027). Its design responds to the need to promote innovative, inclusive, and scalable solutions that strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable rural producers in sectors strategic for food security and sustainable development in the region.

167. In line with this vision, the programme adopts a definition of innovation consistent with that of the Adaptation Fund, understood as the creation, testing, implementation, or dissemination of new, adapted, or improved climate adaptation solutions, developed contextually and with the inclusion of the communities most vulnerable to climate change, in order to strengthen their resilience. This conception, like the proposed programme, broadens the scope of innovation beyond the technological domain, also integrating institutional and social approaches with strong territorial roots and an inclusive focus. Through the science–community partnership methodology, the programme extends the concept of innovation to the ways of accessing funding, local engagement, and climate adaptation based on the co-creation of evidence.

168. (ii) Successful innovations replicated and scaled up: The Programme promotes the replication and scaling of successful innovations through Component 3, which focuses on the systematization, documentation, and dissemination of lessons learned, as well as the active promotion of scaling through policy briefs, dialogue tables with decision-makers, and the strategic identification and connection of successful cases with potential funders, public programmes, or new calls for proposals. Solutions that demonstrate strong performance in the pilot phases are made visible, contextualized, and communicated to key actors, creating favourable conditions for territorial expansion, institutional adoption, and replicability across different agricultural systems in the region.

169. (iii) Access and capacities enhanced for designing and implementing innovation: The Programme significantly strengthens access and capacities for the design and implementation of innovations through Component 2, which offers structured training, technical support, and skills development for community and institutional actors—not only on innovation processes and discussions of the progress of the different Partnerships, but also by strengthening capacities on cross-cutting issues such as environmental, social, and gender aspects, cost-effectiveness, and monitoring and evaluation of innovative solutions. These processes enable producers, extension agents, technical teams, and public actors to learn how to co-design, adapt, pilot, and validate climate adaptation solutions while incorporating these approaches, and encourage them to reflect on and systematize the process rather than just the final results. Science–community partnerships are expected to foster collaboration between scientific institutions and local communities—particularly producers vulnerable to climate change—with the goal of co-creating or co-designing adaptive, culturally relevant, and evidence-based solutions. The community ensures relevance, and science ensures evidence. This approach seeks to move beyond traditional one-way knowledge generation models by integrating technical and traditional knowledge into a participatory process that strengthens territorial resilience, which will be promoted and facilitated by the Programme.

170. (iv) Evidence base generated and shared: Through Component 3, the Programme generates and shares a robust evidence base on the processes, outcomes, and lessons learned from the supported innovations. This includes systematizing the innovation cycle, monitoring the performance of solutions under real-world conditions, producing studies and evidence syntheses, and strategically disseminating them through publications, knowledge platforms, policy briefs, and multi-stakeholder dialogue spaces to ensure that the evidence reaches diverse audiences. The evidence generated not only informs policy and investment decisions but also feeds into the design of future innovations and will be used to identify and facilitate the replication and scaling of the most promising solutions.

171. Through this integrated approach, the programme aims to transform the structural conditions that limit innovation in adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to strengthen local capacities to address the impacts of climate change in a sustainable, equitable, and effective manner.

C. Sourcing small grant proposals for climate adaptation potential

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

172. Sourcing: The programme will leverage the consolidated institutional processes and track record of the FONTAGRO digital platform to identify, select, and manage small-grant proposals aimed at innovation for climate adaptation. To maximize the reach and diversity of applications, a dissemination strategy will be implemented to ensure the call reaches public institutions that work directly with producer groups, such as agricultural extension and technology transfer entities. Efforts will be made to actively involve them so that they participate specifically as multipliers of the call through their

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networks and their work with vulnerable producer groups, encouraging their participation and engagement with the project. This strategy will include gender considerations and aspects of inclusion and participation to ensure that vulnerable groups—such as Indigenous peoples or persons with disabilities—can also access the call's information. The call will be presented through a two-session webinar, and the programme will incorporate feedback mechanisms to improve proposal quality, as well as conduct periodic evaluations to adjust the programmes approach throughout the innovation development cycle.

173. Screening and evaluation: The programme will apply a structured, transparent and independent evaluation framework, as detailed under Activity 1.2.1, including the related scoring matrices and Annex V.

174. The Evaluation Panel will be independent and composed of externally selected evaluators with expertise in innovation and climate resilience in the agricultural sector, chosen through a competitive process. Evaluators will review each eligible proposal (i.e., proposals that have already passed the PMU's Stage 1 eligibility and E&S screening) for technical and climate relevance, adaptation value, gender approach, and methodological and operational feasibility. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflicts of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary. While national authorities may be engaged in dissemination and knowledge-sharing processes, they will not participate in proposal scoring or selection decisions, thereby preserving the independence, objectivity, and technical integrity of the evaluation process.

175. The programme will implement a two-stage screening and evaluation process, supported by the indicative evaluation matrix and thresholds presented in the relevant annexes:

176. Stage 1 - Eligibility and Adaptation Screening (Pass/Fail): All proposals will undergo mandatory screening to verify compliance with minimum requirements. Proposals must demonstrate:

- Legal eligibility of participants: Member countries of CAF are eligible, verification of the legal status of the applicants
- Compliance with the minimum formal and administrative submission requirements of the call
- A clearly articulated climate risk and vulnerability context;
- Activities covering research/knowledge transfer and a direct field-based adaptation action under real conditions;
- Identifiable direct beneficiaries;
- Compliance with environmental and social requirements; Activities must not be included in the exclusion list (see Annex II) and classified as environmental and social risk category C or B
- Alignment with national or subnational priorities; and
- A credible adaptation objective linking the proposed innovation to measurable reductions in vulnerability or strengthened adaptive capacity.

177. Only proposals meeting all eligibility and minimum adaptation requirements will advance to technical evaluation. Detailed screening criteria and guidance will be further developed during the design of the Call for Proposal and associated Terms of Reference. More detailed on the evaluation framework can be found in Annex V.

178. Stage 2 - Technical Evaluation and Scoring: Eligible proposals will be assessed using the approved scoring matrix (see Table 6), where Adaptation Value constitutes the core priority. This section accounts for 50 out of 100 total points and requires a minimum threshold score to ensure that only proposals with strong adaptation relevance and measurable resilience outcomes are selected. Additional weighted criteria include innovation, technological readiness, scalability, feasibility, institutional capacity, economic and social co-benefits (including gender), complementarity, and cost-effectiveness. Minimum scoring for approved projects will be 80 points.

179. This framework ensures that the screening and selection process consistently prioritizes proposals with high adaptation value. These criteria will be further refined in the call Terms of Reference to be prepared under Activity 1.1.1, drawing on the Programme operational guidelines, and the applicable Adaptation Fund policies.

180. Alignment with national and sub-national adaptation priorities will form an explicit component of the eligibility and adaptation screening process. Applicants will be required to clearly identify the relevant policy instruments addressed and explain how the proposed activities translate those priorities into concrete, field-based adaptation actions. In contexts where formal instruments are absent, outdated, or not publicly available, applicants may provide alternative credible evidence of alignment, such as officially endorsed sectoral strategies, subnational development plans, adaptation communications, UNFCCC submissions, government programmes, or letters of support from competent public institutions. Screening will assess the credibility and relevance of the alignment narrative rather than the formal status of a single instrument.

181. The evaluation and prioritization criteria will be specifically designed to identify solutions with high potential to generate concrete adaptation actions, reduce climate vulnerability, and strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change. The programme will promote a broad and diverse portfolio of innovations, including technological, social, institutional, financial, and nature-based solutions, as well as new applications of existing practices and entirely novel approaches.

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182. Minimum application proposal package: Climate Innovation Science–Community Partnership project proposals must include the following:

- They must be submitted by **Science–Community Partnerships** from the same country, as established in Figure 2. The CVs of the technical leaders and the commitment letters or agreements from each party must be provided, ensuring that these actors have been informed and engaged to participate in the specific innovation ecosystem.
- Submit a f**unctional prototype** of an adaptation innovation project with a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 5 to 8 for acceleration, or, alternatively, TRL 4 for incubation up to TRL 5 and subsequently accelerated to TRL 8. Prototypes with a TRL 5 maturity level will be prioritized, although those at TRL 4 will also be accepted, provided that their advancement to TRL 8 can be achieved within a maximum period of 24 months.
- Submit a **mapping of the key innovation** ecosystem actors that the project intends to develop or engage.
- Provide the **climate justification** of the project, including:
  - Climate problem: the threat, its impact on the agricultural system/producers, the community's climate risk, and how future scenarios could exacerbate the situation.
  - Proposed innovative solution: how it addresses the climate problem for the most vulnerable groups, either by enhancing adaptive capacities or by reducing the exposure or vulnerability of the system, ecosystem, or producer group.
- **Submit an Environmental and Social Risk Analysis**, Gender Analysis for the proposed solution, Consultation Report. Commitment to fully develop and comply with an Environmental and Social Management Plan, and a Gender Action Plan, if selected for funding. Selected Partnerships will be supported by the PMU to design these plans and will not receive funding until these plans are approved.
- Include a **Training** and **Technical Assistance Plan detailing** how producer extension and training will be conducted based on the developed innovation.
- Provide details on **how the project will comply with relevant national standards**.
- Submit the procurement plan, budget, timeline, and logical framework of the project.
- Include a **cost–benefit analysis** presenting the economic, gender, environmental, and social benefits associated with the proposal.
- Provide a **sustainability plan and scalability potential** for the agro-climatic innovation project.
- Identify **regulatory barriers or gaps that could hinder the implementation of** the innovation.

183. The Evaluation Panel will be independent and composed of externally selected evaluators with expertise in innovation and climate resilience in the agricultural sector, chosen through a competitive process and also for one IICA technical expert. Evaluators will review each proposal for technical and climate relevance, environmental and social safeguards, gender approach, and methodological and operational feasibility within the established timeframe. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflicts of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary. While national authorities may be engaged in dissemination and knowledge-sharing processes, they will not participate in proposal scoring or selection decisions, thereby preserving the independence, objectivity, and technical integrity of the evaluation process.

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

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

184. The programme will support the incubation and acceleration of at least 20 innovative climate adaptation initiatives across CAF's partner countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. To achieve this, the programme will apply a structured, two stage. and transparent selection process to ensure that proposed innovations demonstrate strong potential to generate economic, social, gender and environmental benefits, particularly for communities vulnerable to climate change. The selection and design processes successfully demonstrated through FONTAGRO's innovation programme will be adapted under the AFCIA Programme of the Adaptation Fund to meet the specific needs of climate adaptation. As part of the call for proposals, applicants will be required to demonstrate how their concept addresses the adaptation needs of vulnerable communities (assessed in stage 1) while contributing to economic, environmental, gender and social benefits. In stage 2 (technical scoring) of the selection evaluation, an indicative weighted matrix in which these benefits are explicitly scored under the criterion "Economic, social, environmental and gender benefits" (10 points), alongside other delivery and innovation considerations. This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed innovation generates: (i) economic

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benefits, (ii) social benefits, (iii) environmental benefits, and (iv) gender benefits, including alignment with the project's GAP. Indicatively, scoring may be distributed across these four dimensions (up to 2.5 points each, for a maximum of 10 points) to ensure transparent and balanced consideration of benefits without compromising adaptation objectives. This approach ensures that selected projects funded by the programme demonstrate meaningful benefits for vulnerable communities through both (i) minimum pass/fail requirements at entry and (ii) explicit weighting within the technical scoring framework.

185. Through Component 1—focused on the identification, financing, and strengthening of locally led, context-specific innovative solutions—the programme will generate tangible and comprehensive benefits (economic, social—including gender—and environmental) in the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors. The programme will ensure that only proposals with a clear pathway toward positive and inclusive results are selected for support. Potential environmental and social impacts, as well as mitigation measures, will be part of the eligibility criteria, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, as well as CAF's guidelines. As part of the design process, all selected proponents will be required to submit: (i) a simple gender and social inclusion plan identifying expected outcomes and measures to ensure equitable access to and distribution of benefits; and (ii) a brief environmental and social risk assessment accompanied by a management plan. This process will be supported by the technical assistance on ESS, GESI, and sustainability included under Component 1. In addition, the results of Component 3—focused on lessons learned and knowledge management—will significantly expand the reach of results, enabling a broader range of stakeholders to access, adapt, and replicate the solutions developed.

186. While the specific benefits will vary according to the type of project selected, and drawing on the sectoral prioritization and lessons learned from FONTAGRO and CAF, it is expected that the financed innovations will generate benefits across four main areas:

187. Economic Benefits: By promoting and financing innovative and climate-resilient agricultural, forestry, and fisheries technologies and practices, producers will be able to reduce losses from extreme events, improve the productivity of their systems, and strengthen the stability of their incomes. The development of adaptive innovative ideas will help stimulate rural economies by generating new employment opportunities, strengthening local value chains, and improving the economic autonomy of producers, especially small- and medium-scale producers.

188. Social Benefits: The programme will provide technical training, institutional support, and practical knowledge generation, contributing to the empowerment of communities and local change agents. Improvements in productive efficiency and reductions in post-harvest losses due to extreme climate events will increase food and water security in the region.

189. Gender and Equity Considerations: The participatory design of solutions will ensure that women, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups participate from the identification stage through project implementation, promoting their leadership and decision-making. By providing entrepreneurial opportunities for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, the programme contributes to more equitable and socially inclusive economic growth, strengthening the leadership of these groups in local and national economies.

190. Environmental Benefits: The technologies and practices promoted will aim to restore soils, protect water sources, reduce pressure on natural ecosystems, and enhance productive biodiversity. By fostering more sustainable production systems, the programme will contribute to reducing the ecological footprint of the agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors and strengthening the resilience of socio-environmental systems to climate change.

E. Cost-effectiveness

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

191. The programme was designed to maximize efficiency in the use of financial, human, and technical resources, ensuring a high climate impact for every dollar invested through the Adaptation Fund's AFCIA mechanism.

192. Within the technical evaluation framework described in the evaluation matrix, priority will be given to achieving concrete results in climate resilience, the technical sustainability of interventions, and a high cost-effectiveness ratio, in line with the strategic objectives of the programme. Projects that generate tangible economic, social, and environmental benefits for vulnerable groups and promote gender equality will also be prioritized. The call will require a cost-effectiveness assessment addressing economic and financial viability through a clear value proposition and a quantitative analysis—as far as possible—of direct and indirect costs, as well as economic, social, financial, and environmental benefits, with particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable communities and traditionally excluded groups. Applicants will also need to compare the cost-benefit ratio of their innovation against the current scenario, explicitly demonstrating its innovative attributes, profitability, and potential to generate sustainable impacts at scale.

193. Specifically, as an initial and proportionate cost-effectiveness assessment at the selection stage 2, evaluators will consider indicative cost per direct beneficiary reached and, where relevant to the innovation type, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy (e.g., access to climate information/services, adoption of practices, or reported loss reduction). These proxies will be assessed against the total grant cost over the project implementation period. To guide evaluators in their assessment, applicants at entry will be required to provide: (a) indicative unit costs based on the proposed budget and expected reach; (b) the expected scale of beneficiaries, hectares, or producers to be covered; and (c) a plausible narrative on how unit costs could improve through learning, replication, or institutional partnerships during and beyond implementation. Evaluators will not apply rigid thresholds but will assess the internal coherence and plausibility of the cost-effectiveness hypothesis, considering whether projected unit costs are credible given the innovation type, geographic context, and implementation approach. Projects with weak or implausible value propositions, disproportionate costs, or limited potential to reduce unit costs through scaling will not achieve a competitive score under this dimension.

194. To provide evaluators with an orientative frame of reference, cost-effectiveness assessments at Stage 2 will be informed by indicative reference information drawn from IICA and FONTAGRO's public portfolio and comparable completed projects, which document unit-cost data across different innovation types operating in LAC agricultural contexts. These references are not mandatory thresholds but serve as plausibility anchors to calibrate the reasonableness of applicants' cost-effectiveness hypotheses relative to comparable interventions. The programme recognises that plausible unit costs vary substantially depending on innovation type (for example, digital agriculture and climate-information tools, climate-resilient varieties and seed systems, sustainable soil and water management practices, bioinputs and pest-management solutions, early warning systems, post-harvest/value-chain innovations, etc), implementation context, and maturity stage, and that no single threshold applies uniformly across the portfolio. Evaluators will be expected to assess cost-effectiveness hypotheses against the relevant reference category for each innovation type, considering whether projected unit costs are internally consistent with the proposed budget, expected reach, and implementation approach, and whether the applicant presents a credible narrative for how unit costs could improve as the innovation matures and scales beyond the grant period.

195. Cost-effectiveness and sustainability are assessed as complementary and interrelated dimensions within the programme's evaluation framework. Cost-effectiveness under this programme is understood not only in terms of immediate implementation efficiency, but as value for money over time — that is, the programme's ability to generate sustained adaptation outcomes with the potential for improved unit costs as innovations mature, scale, and are replicated. Accordingly, at selection stage, evaluators will explicitly consider whether proposed innovations present a credible pathway from current unit costs at pilot scale toward improved efficiency under replication or expansion conditions. In practice, while cost-effectiveness (5 points) and sustainability, scalability and replication potential (5 points) appear as distinct criteria in the Stage 2 scoring matrix, evaluators are instructed to read them in conjunction when forming an overall judgment on long-term value for money. Proposals that demonstrate how partnerships, institutional anchoring, or adoption by existing programmes could reduce the cost per sustained adaptation outcome beyond the grant period will be scored more favourably under both the cost-effectiveness and sustainability criteria of the scoring matrix. Evaluators are therefore expected to assess the internal coherence between these two dimensions — specifically, whether the proposed sustainability pathway is consistent with, and supportive of, the cost-effectiveness trajectory presented. To operationalize this integrated assessment, applicants will be asked, where relevant and proportionate to the innovation type and maturity stage, to estimate an indicative cost per sustained adaptation outcome, calculated as the total AFCIA grant cost divided by the number of direct beneficiaries, hectares, producers/adopters, institutions, or other proposed adaptation outcome proxies expected to continue receiving, applying, maintaining, or enabling adaptation benefits beyond the grant period. This ratio will not be used as a rigid threshold, but as a common reference to assess whether the proposed sustainability and scaling pathway is consistent with the cost-effectiveness trajectory presented.

196. This approach builds on FONTAGRO's established evaluation practice, which already requires applicants to provide quantitative ex-ante impact assessments, beneficiary quantification, business models with adoption assumptions, and scaling and sustainability strategies as mandatory components of project proposals and adapts these standards to the innovation stage and scope of AFCIA-funded grants.

197. The programme will apply a **standardized programme-level cost-effectiveness framework** to ensure consistency and comparability across the portfolio, while maintaining proportionality to the innovation type and maturity stage. This framework rests on three elements.

198. **Common parameters and standardized proxy indicators:** The set of proxy indicators defined for project-level assessment — cost per direct beneficiary reached, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management, and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy, as relevant to each innovation type — will be applied consistently across all funded projects, together with standardized cost categories, ratios and definitions incorporated into FONTAGRO's regional

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monitoring system based on evidence from previous IICA and FONTAGRO projects and comparable innovation initiatives in the region. To ensure comparability, all projects will apply common calculation assumptions. These indicators will not operate as rigid ex ante thresholds, but as common reference parameters to compare ranges, trends, and efficiency trajectories across countries, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, and innovation categories.

199. **Differentiated expectations across the innovation cycle:** Cost-effectiveness expectations will evolve proportionately to the stage of innovation maturity. At entry and incubation stages, projects will present preliminary unit-cost estimates based on their proposed budget, expected reach, and value proposition, together with a plausible narrative on how costs may decline or benefits increase through learning, replication, partnerships, or institutional anchoring; the PMU will provide targeted technical assistance to refine these assumptions and define fit-for-purpose unit-cost metrics. During acceleration and piloting, these assumptions will be tested under implementation conditions, with emphasis on generating observed evidence on delivery costs, adoption patterns, operational bottlenecks, efficiency gains from replication, and potential economies of scale. By completion, projects will be expected to validate the cost-effectiveness and sustainability assumptions presented at entry and tested during implementation. This will include comparing ex ante unit-cost estimates with observed implementation costs; distinguishing one-off development and piloting costs from recurrent delivery, operation, maintenance, and monitoring costs; and assessing whether partnerships, institutional anchoring, adoption by existing programmes, or market-based arrangements have created a credible pathway to sustain or reduce the cost per adaptation outcome beyond the grant period. Projects will also report evidence of reach, adoption, continued use, partnership commitments, institutional or market uptake, and the conditions under which the innovation could be replicated at broader scale. In this way, completion-stage assessment will not only document achieved cost-effectiveness during the grant period, but also test whether the proposed sustainability pathway supports a viable cost-effectiveness trajectory for scaling.

200. **Portfolio-level aggregation and synthesis for learning and scaling:** At programme level, the PMU will aggregate and analyse project-level cost-effectiveness evidence across the portfolio using harmonized indicators and standardized reporting templates. The enhanced FONTAGRO platform and dashboard will support the systematic tagging, aggregation, and visualization of cost-effectiveness data by country, agroecological context, sector, innovation type, target beneficiary group, adaptation outcome, and scaling potential. This portfolio-level synthesis will allow the programme to identify efficiency ranges, scale effects, and emerging benchmarks for different categories of agricultural adaptation innovation. The results will feed into mid-term and final scale-up readiness assessments, inform knowledge products for policymakers, investors, and scaling partners, and strengthen the programme's learning function on which innovations generate sustained adaptation outcomes at viable costs.

201. The long-term cost-effectiveness rationale of this type of programs is supported by evidence from FONTAGRO's regional portfolio of completed projects, which documents the economic returns generated by agricultural innovation investments in LAC. Across a portfolio with an aggregate investment of approximately USD 8.1 million, completed projects have generated an estimated USD 83.3 million in economic benefits, with benefit-cost ratios ranging from 1:0.2 to 1:46 across different innovation types, scales, and agroecological contexts (average 1:10). This is further reinforced by evidence from the IDB (2023), which highlights that investments in agricultural research and innovation in LAC are essential to address the combined challenges of climate change, natural resource degradation, and productivity gaps — and that technological progress in the sector generates returns not only through productivity gains but also through quality improvements, expanded harvesting opportunities, and optimized product conservation and processing. According to ECLAC and FAO (2023), average productivity could increase by up to 40% through the adoption of technological innovations and improved management practices. By investing in innovative approaches that enhance productivity, strengthen resilience, and reduce costs, the programme leverages a proven type of investment with high returns and significant potential to improve climate change adaptation.The Programme was designed following best practices in policies and programmes for the incubation and acceleration of innovations, which are: i) demand-driven orientation; ii) incubation and acceleration based on the outset on prototypes, not ideas or business plans; and iii) the Sussex approach and its resource triangle.

202. Demand-driven orientation seeks to effectively link scientific and technological development with the needs and preferences of beneficiaries, in this case vulnerable rural communities. This ensures that solutions address real needs, increase the likelihood of adoption, optimize resources, promote collaboration, and generate sustainable impact. By focusing innovation on priority problems expressed by beneficiaries, this approach maximizes the relevance, efficiency, and scalability of the technologies developed, particularly in rural, agricultural, and climate adaptation contexts. The systematization and dissemination of TRLs facilitate the design of incubation and acceleration mechanisms. For this programme, TRL 4 or TRL 5 is required for entry, with a target of TRL 8 as the exit profile. Prototyping is essential for climate adaptation innovations, which involve high environmental variability and uncertainty. Prototypes allow for: i) testing technologies in different microclimates; ii) verifying the resilience of materials and processes; iii) assessing social adoption

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in rural contexts; and iv) comparing costs and benefits against traditional solutions. A prototype-based innovation programme reduces uncertainty, validates technical feasibility, adapts to real users, saves costs, enables rapid learning, and generates solid evidence for scaling. In complex contexts such as agriculture or climate adaptation, prototyping is essential to ensure that solutions truly work and are adopted, making the use of public and private resources more efficient and transparent. Thirdly, it should be highlighted that the programme aligns with the immediate relevant context of the Sussex approach to innovation: i) it provides access to technological infrastructure (equipment + technical assistance); ii) it provides access to training for the human resources involved in innovation; and iii) access to relevant financing. This criterion is part of the broader Sussex School innovation approach, which conceives innovation as a systemic, interactive, social, political, and historically situated process, where users, institutions, and contexts are as important as the technology itself.

203. The programme's regional approach reduces unit costs, transaction costs and shortens cycle times, compared to a country-by-country set-up by centralizing key fixed-cost functions and avoiding duplication that would otherwise need to be replicated separately in each participating country. These functions include: (i) a single regional call design and outreach process, replacing multiple national calls and communication packages (Activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2); (ii) a shared pool of independent external evaluators trained and calibrated under one scoring matrix, standardized eligibility and digital scoring system (Activity 1.2.1), avoiding repeated recruitment, training, and calibration per country; (iii) centralized technical assistance for applicants and selected projects, including webinars, proposal refinement, safeguards strengthening, cost-effectiveness assessment, monitoring, and scaling support (Activities 1.1.2 and 2.1.1) rather than being replicated at national level; (iv) regional open innovation, peer-learning, and marketplace spaces that allow projects working on similar climate risks, value chains, agroecological conditions, or innovation types to exchange solutions and avoid repeated problem-solving processes in isolation (Activities 2.1.2 and 2.1.3); (v) harmonized monitoring, reporting, and cost-effectiveness measurement templates integrated into FONTAGRO's digital monitoring and reporting system (Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) rather than sustaining parallel national systems; and (vii) shared regional knowledge products, learning events, policy briefs, synthesis reports, cost-effectiveness notes, scaling profiles, and an online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions, instead of repeated country-level production of similar materials (Activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3).

204. By spreading these fixed administrative, technical, evaluation, monitoring, and knowledge-management costs across a portfolio at least 20 innovation projects and multiple countries' LAC, the programme will reduce the average support cost per funded project and avoid duplication of evaluator recruitment, technical assistance materials, screening tools, reporting systems, dissemination activities, and communication products. This structure is expected to improve cost-effectiveness by lowering common delivery costs, enabling comparable assessment across projects, and allowing successful innovations, tools, and lessons to be replicated across countries with lower marginal costs than under isolated national implementation arrangements.

205. In this regard, the regional approach contributes to the programme's cost-effectiveness by enabling economies of scale, as coordinated implementation across countries reduces unit costs for the design, pilot testing, and adoption of adaptive technologies and practices in the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors. It also allows for the shared use of technical and financial resources, since CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO will channel specialized knowledge, regional innovation networks, and digital platforms among countries, optimizing resource use and significantly reducing transaction costs.

206. This is further supported by leveraging existing resources and mechanisms developed by CAF and FONTAGRO, such as methodologies, tools, technical capacities, digital platforms, and proven innovation networks, which will reduce transaction costs and avoid duplication of efforts. Based on its regional experience in promoting agricultural innovation, FONTAGRO will provide technical guidance on project design, offer evaluation criteria, and facilitate knowledge exchange between countries, while contributing its expertise in managing multinational projects and fostering public-private partnerships to generate synergies and optimize implementation.

207. CAF, IICA and FONTAGRO, as regional entities with technical presence in LAC, will facilitate the identification, validation, and scaling of innovative adaptation solutions that address common climate challenges in the region. Coordinated actions in dissemination, communication, knowledge exchange, and capacity building will accelerate learning through experience sharing, avoid duplication in innovation processes, and foster synergies among countries with similar climate vulnerabilities. Regarding regional replicability and scalability, solutions will be designed from the outset with high potential for adaptation to the different agroecological and socioeconomic contexts of member countries, increasing investment efficiency and reducing the adaptation cost per beneficiary.

F. Alignment to National and Sub-National Strategies

Describe how the project / programme is consistent with national or subnational sustainable development strategies, adaptation planning processes, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation

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programmes of action, national adaptation plans (NAPs), nationally determined contributions (NDCs), adaptation communications, and other voluntary adaptation reports, where they exist, as well as with the UNFCCC technology framework, and other relevant instruments.

208. Alignment with national strategies and priorities will be a mandatory criterion in the evaluation and selection of projects. To ensure this, the programme will incorporate specific selection criteria assessing the contribution of each proposal to national instruments such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), Technology Action Plans (TAPs), as well as sectoral priorities for innovation and agricultural research, and other strategies related to development, poverty reduction, and adaptation. The call for proposals will require applicants to clearly explain how their project aligns with these national and subnational frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and other relevant national strategies.
209. Recognizing that the availability and update status of NAPs, TNAs, or TAPs varies across countries, the programme will apply this requirement with context-appropriate flexibility. Applicants may demonstrate alignment using the most relevant instruments available, including, inter alia, sectoral strategies, subnational plans, or other local policy frameworks. In cases where formal national instruments are outdated or absent, the selection process will analyze the alignment based on its consistency with demonstrated territorial priorities. This flexible approach will be applied during the technical evaluation phase, ensuring that no unnecessary barriers to participation are created while maintaining the strategic integrity of the selection process.
210. This alignment requirement will be operationalized through the programme's two-stage selection framework (Annex V). At Stage 1 (pass/fail screening), proposals must demonstrate alignment with at least one relevant national or subnational adaptation or sectoral instrument applicable to the target territory. At Stage 2 (technical scoring), alignment will be assessed under the Core Priority: Adaptation Value category through the sub-criterion "Alignment with national/subnational strategies and plans" (5 points), rewarding proposals that clearly link alignment to the project objective and field-level adaptation actions and measurable results.
211. In this way, the programme aims to contribute to CAF's commitment, under the UNFCCC framework, to align all its operations with the Paris Agreement. Likewise, the programme aligns with the international commitments assumed by countries in the region under the three Rio Conventions: The Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UNFCCC. In this regard, it contributes to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by promoting an ecosystem-based approach that safeguards biodiversity, including the conservation of ecosystems with high ecological integrity and the preservation of connectivity in agroecosystems.
212. Similarly, the programme supports the conceptual framework of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), driving innovation in restoration, conservation, and sustainable soil management measures to counteract productivity loss, in line with the voluntary targets adopted by countries towards 2030. Additionally, the project contributes to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 by strengthening the resilience of the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors against climate threats and extreme events.
213. Finally, the project incorporates principles from the United Nations System Strategy on Water and Sanitation (2024), recognizing the central role of water in food security and promoting actions aligned with the accelerators of SDG 6—such as innovation, financing, governance, and capacity building.
214. The programme is aligned not only at the regional level but also at the national level with the policies of the 21 CAF member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The vulnerability of the agricultural sector is consistently highlighted in national documents—whether through NDCs or NAPs—where countries identify this sector as a priority for climate change adaptation, with the aim of increasing resilience and strengthening food security for their populations.
215. The programme also directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This is achieved by integrating gender, interculturality, and social inclusion approaches, in line with the commitments undertaken by CAF and the member countries included in this proposal.

G. Alignment with National Technical Standard

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

216. The AFCIA programme by CAF/FONTAGRO for LAC ensures that all agricultural innovation proposals are evaluated to verify compliance with relevant national technical standards, sectoral policies, and applicable regulatory requirements in

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each participating country. This review will be conducted in alignment with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, which will be integrated into the AFCIA programmes environmental and social guidelines.

217. During the co-design phase, proposals will be developed collaboratively by research teams, extension or technical assistance services, and agricultural producers. This joint process will demonstrate how the proposed activities align with regulatory frameworks, technical standards, and established best practices for the sector in each country.

218. Among the relevant norms and regulations for the agricultural sector that proposals must consider (as available in each country) are, for example:

- Integrated soil and water management standards, including requirements for soil conservation, efficient water use, and erosion control.
- Regulations on the use and management of plant protection products, such as maximum residue limits, storage and disposal requirements, and national pesticide registries.
- Standards for sustainable agricultural production, such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), national sustainability certifications, or climate-smart agriculture standards.
- Animal health and welfare regulations, including zoo sanitary standards, livestock waste management, and disease control.
- Applicable environmental requirements, such as environmental impact assessments, water use permits, ecosystem protection standards, and regulations on emissions and waste management.

219. A non-exhaustive list of these standards will be included in the programme guidelines to guide applicant teams during the formulation process.

220. During the proposal evaluation stage, the Evaluation Panel will ensure that the proposals are analysed considering the national and sectoral regulatory frameworks. If it is identified that any project requires an environmental and social impact assessment, sectoral permits, or national licenses, the programme will provide timely technical guidance to ensure that these requirements are identified, managed, and met before project implementation begins. As detailed in Table 4 (Section A) and Annex II (ESMS), all proposals undergo an initial E&S screening at application (Stage 1); selected partnerships subsequently prepare the full ESMP and GAP under PMU guidance prior to final approval, proportionate to their risk category (B or C).

221. To verify alignment with technical standards for innovation proposals, starting from the call, and regardless of their risk category, each proposal will be required to incorporate gender aspects, potential environmental and social risks, and present an initial E&S risk screening . Technical assistance will be provided during the call stage to strengthen the teams in these areas and ensure that all proposals are aligned with and comply with the Adaptation Fund's standards. This information will be submitted at the application stage. The PMU will conduct the initial E&S screening and gender review as part of Stage 1 (Table 4, Step 2–3); only proposals that pass this screening advance to Stage 2, where the Independent External Evaluation Panel assesses adaptation value, technical quality, and scalability, without re-opening the E&S categorization decision.

222. As additional evidence of alignment with national and regional frameworks, the Policy Briefs that will be developed during the programmes implementation will document, from the initial phase, how each innovation proposal has been designed in coherence with national policies and technical standards. These knowledge products will serve as communication and policy advocacy tools, reflecting the connection between the promoted innovations and the strategic priorities for agricultural development, sustainability, and climate change adaptation of the participating countries.

223. The operational workflow that will apply to each identified subproject, including screening, approval , disbursement , monitoring; who is responsible for review and sign-off at each step and the documentation required at each step, including decision points have been further clarified in section E, including a diagram (Figure 4).

H. Complementarity with Other Funding Sources

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

224. The programme has been designed to ensure complementarity with other regional programmes, avoiding duplication of efforts. Proposals will be screened against applicant self-declarations and cross-checked, as relevant, with FONTAGRO's historical project database, the Adaptation Fund innovation project portfolio, CAF's climate and agriculture investment portfolio. Applicants will also be required to declare any existing, recent or planned related funding in the submission template.

225. This proposal provides additional support to initiatives that CAF has developed in institutional strengthening and the promotion of innovation, reaffirming its commitment to scientific and technological development in LAC. It aligns with

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previous initiatives such as “Science and Technology Against Hunger.”[44] The programme, which channelled resources toward technology-based agri-food solutions, is part of CAF’s strategy to promote research, development, and innovation processes with regional impact. In this case, the project introduces a novel approach by prioritizing the provision of climate change adaptation grants targeted at agricultural producers, alongside complementary components for institutional strengthening, systematization, and regional dissemination of lessons learned.

226. Unlike other current CAF instruments—such as the loans included in the “Agri-Food Prosperity” strategy launched in 2025 [45], which focus on infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and traditional financing—this proposal emphasizes the promotion of innovative technological and social solutions through direct support to partnerships and institutions. It also offers a unified regional platform with standardized criteria and coordinated technical assistance, overcoming the fragmentation and variable country-specific approaches that characterize many IICA innovation programmes.

227. The Programme also complements and expands FONTAGRO’s competitive mechanisms with innovation grants, which emphasize scientific–technological consortia and applied research. This initiative differs by focusing exclusively on adaptation-oriented innovations, with greater community participation in co-design, more robust technical support, and coverage that includes all CAF member countries, even those not part of FONTAGRO. The programmes design incorporates key lessons learned from FONTAGRO, drawn from the study “Impactful Innovations: Lessons on Climate Change Adaptation in Family Farming in LAC,” conducted by FONTAGRO–IDB–IICA[46] as presented in the context section of this document.

Relevant initiatives and complementarity.

228. The programme strategically complements existing initiatives by addressing critical gaps. For instance, while IDB Lab (Innovation for Climate Resilience) focuses on solutions with market potential and established business models, this programme provides grant financing for agricultural and forestry innovations that lack commercial maturity. It also builds on research generated by CGIAR and national centres to foster 'last-mile' community adoption and expands the reach of initiatives like AgroHub Zamorano to all 21 CAF member countries. For example, while CGIAR initiatives generate validated technologies, this programme supports their adaptation and deployment at community level; similarly, while IDB Lab promotes market-ready solutions, AFCIA supports earlier-stage innovations to reach operational maturity. As presented in Table 1 of Section A, there are multiple initiatives in the region that support innovation, but with different approaches, beneficiaries, and scales. Potentially overlapping initiatives include, among others: previous FONTAGRO–IDB climate technology transfer and adaptation innovation projects; CAF-supported regional climate resilience and sustainable agriculture programmes; CGIAR and national agricultural research initiatives focused on climate-smart agriculture; bilateral donor–supported innovation hubs; and AFCIA Phase I innovation pilots. The proposed programme does not duplicate these efforts, rather, it reinforces, builds upon, and complements them by.

(i) focusing specifically on field-tested, scalable adaptation innovations.

(ii) applying a structured incubation-to-acceleration pathway; and

(iii) providing regional platforms for scaling, learning, and cost reduction. Lessons from these initiatives—particularly the need for stronger links between innovation, adoption, and scalability—have directly informed the programme’s design.

229. Lessons from these initiatives—particularly the need for stronger links between innovation, adoption, and scalability—have directly informed the programme’s design. Analysis of the existing ecosystem shows that, although Latin America and the Caribbean have relevant agricultural and climate innovation initiatives, none combine small-grant financing, personalized technical assistance, a science–community approach, explicit climate adaptation focus, and regional coverage within a unified mechanism. Existing programmes target specific segments—scientific research, technology startups, country-specific incubation, or small-scale community support—but do not provide a systematic bridge between local innovation, territorial piloting, and regional scalability, particularly at the level of smallholder adoption and last-mile delivery. The proposed AFCIA programme complements these initiatives by addressing critical gaps in access, coordination, and continuity, avoiding duplication of efforts, and strengthening climate action through a regional coordinating mechanism that operates in alignment with existing actors.

230. In particular, it does not overlap with the mechanisms of other multilateral banks, such as the IDB, whose instruments are primarily directed toward large-scale investments, credit schemes, or market-potential solutions, without a specific grant line for the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors lacking established business models. Likewise, the

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

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

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

Programme expands regional coverage and multi-stakeholder reach compared to programmes such as AgroHub Zamorano and provides higher funding amounts and more robust technical support than programmes like the Climate-LAC Innovation Hub or Semilla de la Innovación.

231. Overall, the proposal represents a complementary and strategic contribution within the CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO portfolio, and within the regional climate innovation ecosystem, by integrating efforts and providing capabilities that are not currently available in a coordinated manner.

232. Finally, unlike the operational AFCIA programmes, this proposal focuses exclusively on the agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors in LAC, providing added value by addressing sectoral and regional needs that are not fully covered by global mechanisms. Lessons from the AFCIA–UNEP II programme show that demand far exceeds supply, highlighting the persistent need for support in innovation and adaptation technologies. In this context, the CAF/FONTAGRO programme complements existing efforts by offering specialized and context-specific support for a key region and productive sector, helping to expand coverage and better meet the unmet demand for adaptation innovation.

Process and Criteria for Assessing projects Duplication and Complementarity

233. The evaluation panel will apply a multi-layered process to assess duplication and complementarity:

234. To ensure rigorous verification beyond applicant self-declaration, the PMU and the Independent Evaluation Panel will cross-check proposals against a defined set of relevant information sources, including: (i) proposals submitted under the same AFCIA-CAF/FONTAGRO call, to identify duplicate or identical projects; (ii) FONTAGRO's historical project database; (iii) CAF's climate and agriculture investment portfolio; (iv) the Adaptation Fund innovation project database; and any other relevant databases or information sources identified by the PMU, CAF, IICA, or FONTAGRO as directly relevant to the call's thematic and geographic scope.

235. As a final instance of duplication screening, shortlisted projects scoring more than 75 points will be presented in a closed and confidential coordination meeting with relevant funding agencies such as IICA, for review and screening prior to approval by the AFCIA and FONTAGRO Governance Committee.

236. Partial overlaps will be assessed using clear differentiation criteria to identify added value:

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

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

I. Learning and knowledge management

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

238. The programme incorporates a robust knowledge management system embedded in component 3 aimed at capturing, systematizing, and disseminating evidence on effective and efficient adaptation practices, products, and technologies. This approach aligns with CAF, FONTAGRO and IICA's regional strategy to drive innovation and productivity in the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors, recognizing that sustainable growth requires not only financial and technical support but also structured learning processes that enable the scaling of effective solutions.

239. The knowledge management system is designed to ensure that evidence generated by diverse innovation grants is consistent, credible, and usable for scaling and replication.

240. (i) **Governance**: Overall governance will rest with the PMU, which will set minimum evidence requirements, manage portfolio-level synthesis, and oversee quality assurance. The Implementing Entity (CAF), the executing entity (IICA) and specialized technical providers will contribute thematic expertise, support learning events, and facilitate policy engagement. Grantees will be responsible for collecting agreed data, documenting results, and contributing to learning products as part

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of their grant agreements. Roles and responsibilities will be formalized in KM guidelines and reporting templates to ensure consistency across projects during the first year of the Project.

241. (ii) **Minimum evidence standards per grant**. All grants will be required to generate a minimum evidence package, proportionate to innovation stage, including: documented climate risk context; description of the adaptation solution and implementation conditions; quantitative adaptation outcome indicators (with baselines and targets, which will be discussed and validated by the coordinator to effectively showcase adaptation benefits); sex- and vulnerability-disaggregated beneficiary data; cost and unit-cost information (e.g. cost per beneficiary, hectare, or adopter, where relevant); and qualitative evidence on adoption, usability, and empowerment outcomes. These requirements will be supported by the PMU team and are part of Activity 2.1.2 and 3.1.1, aiming at strengthening results-based monitoring and improving monitoring and evaluation skills among innovation stakeholders.

242. (iii) **Validation of findings**. Evidence quality will be validated through a combination of technical review, portfolio analysis, and independent assessment. The PMU will review data submissions for completeness and consistency, supported by technical experts. Cost-effectiveness and value-for-money analyses will be conducted using standardized proxy indicators and cross-project comparisons embedded in FONTAGRO's digital monitoring system. Independent evaluations at mid-term and final stage will triangulate results, identify outliers, and validate claims of effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability.

243. (iv) **Packaging lessons for replication and scaling**. Validated lessons will be synthesized into scaling-oriented knowledge products, including solution briefs, cost-effectiveness notes, policy briefs, explicitly documenting "what works, where, why, and at what cost." Knowledge products will be disseminated through regional platforms, learning events, and targeted dialogues with policymakers, investors, and development partners (activities 3.1.2 and 3.1.3).

244. The Programme will also establish a structured portfolio-level learning mechanism, under Activity 3.1.1, to ensure that lessons from individual Science–Community Partnerships are systematically aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level knowledge products. As part of the monitoring and evidence-generation process under Activity 3.1.1, each funded project will be required to maintain a simple evidence and learning log, using a harmonized template provided by the PMU. This log will document implementation conditions, adaptation results, user feedback, gender and inclusion outcomes, cost and unit-cost information, barriers encountered, enabling factors, adjustments made through the test–learn–develop cycle, and lessons relevant for replication or scaling. The PMU will periodically review these project-level evidence logs and monitoring data under Activity 3.1.1, using the enhanced FONTAGRO platform and dashboard under Activity 3.1.2.a to identify patterns across countries, innovation types, agroecological contexts, beneficiary groups, and implementation models. This review will support the preparation of portfolio-level synthesis products under Activity 3.1.2.b, including thematic learning briefs, cross-country comparative notes, annual learning reports, compilations of good practices, and policy-relevant evidence summaries. These products will go beyond individual case studies by identifying common success factors, recurrent bottlenecks, contextual conditions for adoption, and practical recommendations for scaling adaptation innovations across the region.

245. Cross-learning among Science–Community Partnerships will be facilitated through structured mechanisms, including open innovation sessions under Activity 2.1.2, the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace under Activity 2.1.3, and knowledge-sharing workshops, virtual exchanges, and dissemination spaces under Activity 3.1.2.b. These spaces will enable grantees to exchange lessons on co-design, field validation, community adoption, gender-responsive innovation, safeguards implementation, cost-effectiveness, and scaling strategies. The PMU will document the outcomes of these exchanges and feed them into programme-level knowledge products, progress reports, policy dialogues, investor engagement materials, the online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions under Activity 3.1.2.b, and the promotion of scaling and replication of successful cases under Activity 3.1.3.

246. Within this framework, the programme will:

- **Promote strategic Science–Community Partnerships**, bringing together research centres, innovation institutions, and local actors to co-generate and disseminate knowledge on resilient and sustainable agricultural technologies that have demonstrated success.
- **Document and systematize experiences** arising from the supported initiatives, with emphasis on the effectiveness of sustainable production practices; their technical, social, economic, and environmental performance; technology adoption by producers; improvements in climate resilience; and the factors that facilitate the scalability and replicability of innovations—recognizing that adoption and replication require time and institutional support.
- **Produce knowledge outputs targeted to different audiences:** The Programme will tailor knowledge products and dissemination channels to the needs of different audiences, using the activities and resources already foreseen under Components 2 and 3. For local communities, producer organizations, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, products will focus on practical and accessible materials such as guides, factsheets, selected visual or audiovisual materials, local-language summaries where appropriate, and peer-learning or field/hybrid exchange spaces. For policymakers

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and public institutions, the Programme will prepare policy briefs, evidence notes, synthesis reports, and recommendations highlighting adaptation effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, enabling conditions, and opportunities for integration into public programmes and climate finance pipelines. For investors, financial institutions, development partners, and scaling partners, products may include investment briefs, pitch decks, scaling profiles, cost-effectiveness notes, and curated solution portfolios linked to the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace. For regional and global platforms, including FONTAGRO, CAF, IICA, AFCIA and other adaptation innovation networks, the Programme will develop standardized case studies, solution briefs, good-practice compilations, thematic learning notes, regional synthesis reports, and an online catalogue of innovative adaptation solutions. Uptake will be monitored through platform analytics, event participation, stakeholder feedback, documented use of knowledge products, and evidence of replication or piloting in new contexts. These knowledge products will contribute to closing knowledge gaps related to climate-resilient agricultural innovation, supporting informed decision-making, and strengthening the upscaling and replicability of measures.

- **Conduct economic analyses** on the return on investment of sustainable practices and technologies to document, with evidence, the profitability of investing in innovation, informing scaling strategies and guiding decision-making processes.
- **Promote peer learning and experience exchange** through the FONTAGRO platform, workshops, and virtual spaces that connect beneficiaries with other stakeholders in the region, facilitating the adaptation and replication of successful solutions.

247. The dissemination of learnings will prioritize the generation of practical inputs for decision-makers, agricultural producers, and private sector actors, with a special emphasis on innovation pathways that have proven to be effective and replicable.

248. Knowledge management uptake will be monitored through both reach and use-oriented indicators. Reach and engagement will be tracked through the number of publication downloads, views of disseminated information through digital platforms, and unique users accessing KM products. To assess use and influence, the Programme will track documented cases of uptake, including replication, piloting, interest in replication, and the use of Programme knowledge products or evidence to inform policy dialogue, investment discussions, public programmes, adaptation planning, or scaling decisions in new locations or programmes. Qualitative uptake will also be captured through structured feedback from stakeholders participating in events, learning sessions, policy dialogues, and marketplace activities..The indicators have been added to the Results Framework (see Table 13, Outcome 3).

249. Additionally, the programme measures participation levels in webinars, open innovation sessions, learning events, and policy dialogues and self-perceived knowledge improved reported by the participants.

250. Tracking and aggregation: these indicators will be standardized and integrated into FONTAGRO's digital monitoring and reporting system to allow consistent tracking across innovation pathways, countries, and projects. At the programme level, reach and uptake information will be captured through platform analytics, event records, stakeholder feedback, follow-up documentation, and evidence of replication or piloting, and will be aggregated in the digital monitoring platform. The PMU will review uptake indicators periodically to assess which knowledge products and dissemination approaches are generating the greatest influence, and the findings will inform adaptive management of the Programme's knowledge management strategy and Adaptation Fund reporting..

251. The uptake indicators will be reviewed periodically at programme level by the PMU to assess which products and approaches are generating the greatest influence. Findings will inform adaptive management to knowledge management strategies and will be reflected in progress reports, and Adaptation Fund reporting, ensuring that KM efforts contribute demonstrably to efficient adaptation solutions.

J. Stakeholder Consultative Processes

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

252. The Programme has been designed in consultation with internal teams from FONTAGRO and CAF, as well as relevant experts in various fields such as innovation, climate finance, and agriculture. These consultations helped identify lessons learned from previous processes. Additionally, consultations were held with research and rural development centres such as the National Institute of Agricultural Technology of Argentina (INTA), Zamorano University in Honduras, producer associations such as the National Federation of Farmers and Ranchers of Honduras (FENAC), which represents more than 60% of rural producers, and the Union of Land Workers of Argentina (UTT) with over 25,000 associated producers, as well as the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero, Argentina (MOCASE). Most of these organizations have extensive experience working in the agricultural sector and in innovation and have strongly supported the Programme concept,

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recognizing the need for innovation in climate change adaptation. The highlighted needs — adequate financing, specialized technical assistance, greater inclusion of women and youth, and more robust mechanisms for dissemination and scaling — were key inputs for the design of the Programme. Annex VI includes the Stakeholder Consultation Report of the design-stage process, including the November–December 2025 virtual consultations, the May–June 2026 expanded review meetings, stakeholder groups and named participants, consultation methods, principal feedback, and the corresponding programme-design responses.

253. The consultative process planned for implementation will be inclusive, participatory, and sensitive to the diverse realities of countries and communities in LAC, with a particular emphasis on the participation of vulnerable groups and the integration of gender considerations. As part of the call for proposals, applicants will be required to document consultations with local stakeholders and demonstrate how these consultations contributed to the definition of the project proposal. Consultation reports will be attached to the application forms, and the selection criteria will explicitly consider the inclusion of vulnerable groups and gender equity. The launch webinar will include a specific session on "Inclusive Stakeholder Participation," which will be part of the co-design training with project managers.

254. The co-design phase will require the active participation of communities, supported by letters of commitment and the formation of consortia to ensure their involvement in the definition, validation, and adjustment of the proposed solutions. This iterative process will ensure that the interventions are culturally and territorially appropriate, equitable, and effective. Pre-selected proponents will need to consult with communities and relevant local institutions and reflect these contributions in their final proposals. Additionally, each beneficiary will develop a simple gender action plan, with support and guidance from the PMU.

255. Starting from the third year, the Programme will promote engagement with greater participation from external stakeholders through open and hybrid innovation sessions aimed at integrating additional actors from the agro-climatic ecosystem. These may include government entities, research centres, international specialists, producer organizations, NGOs, and thematic associations, fostering the exchange and feedback on the conditions necessary to scale effective climate innovations.

256. During project implementation, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will provide continuous technical feedback to ensure that gender, youth, human rights, and social inclusion dimensions are integrated across all stages of the project lifecycle. Finally, the Programme will conduct systematic monitoring using gender- and vulnerability-disaggregated indicators, ensuring the measurement of equitable impact and the continuous improvement of participation processes.

257. Stakeholder engagement for Science–Community Partnership subprojects will follow the structured framework established in Section 11 of the Programme ESMS (Annex II). The framework defines stakeholder engagement requirements throughout the subproject lifecycle, including consultation timing, responsible actors, minimum consultation events, documentation and disclosure requirements, participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, gender-responsive and culturally appropriate engagement methods, feedback and grievance mechanisms, and the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) where Indigenous Peoples may be affected. These requirements are applied proportionally according to the environmental and social risk category assigned to each subproject, with the PMU overseeing implementation and Science–Community Partnerships responsible for conducting stakeholder engagement activities in accordance with the ESMS.

K. Incorporating Multi-Stakeholder Views on Innovation in Context

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

258. Innovation is fundamental for the transformation of the agricultural sector, and in particular, food systems. However, innovations in agriculture and food systems differ from those in other sectors, largely due to ecological interactions, social relationships, and the local context in which they develop. Likewise, innovation in agri-food systems depends on interactions among numerous actors and institutions along the food production and supply chains, including farmers and their cooperatives, policymakers, research institutions, government agencies, and consumers; it involves a dynamic learning process.

259. In this regard, the Programme has been designed taking into account the multiple barriers that producers in the region face in transitioning toward more resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, as well as the asymmetries and varying capacities that countries have in terms of innovation. These differences include the presence of an enabling environment for innovation (technical capacities of professionals, policies or regulations, available infrastructure, institutional quality, among others) and the composition of agricultural systems in each country (farm size, agricultural productivity, access to technology and knowledge, financial support, governance mechanisms, among others).

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260. Through the integration of its different components, the Programme aims to provide small and medium producers with multiple pathways to develop and adopt innovative practices, through inclusive participation and dialogue among multiple actors, facilitating access to knowledge and resources. In addition, the Programme encourages participants or project proponents to consider the various external processes that may, deliberately or inadvertently, affect agricultural systems, such as climate change, environmental degradation, gender inequality, digital barriers, institutional fragmentation (public sector, private sector, NGOs, research institutes, producer associations, others), and changes in consumption patterns or demand for certain foods (shifts in lifestyles—health and diet—, rising consumer incomes, and population growth).
261. Through strategic Science–Community partnerships, the Programme places strong emphasis on the co-creation of adaptation measures originating from producers, who serve as the central actors and primary generators of applied knowledge. Holistically, the Programme promotes the inclusion of vulnerable groups, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples as agents of change across agricultural systems—not only in field production but also at the political level as decision-makers and in research and development areas.

L. Justification of Full Cost Adaptation Reasoning

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

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

Component 1

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

Component 2

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

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Component 3

269. Baseline: There is limited understanding of climate change and its risks among producers, institutions, and supporting actors. Opportunities to learn about innovative solutions, draw from other experiences, and adopt best practices are scarce and unsystematic, limiting the ability to design effective policies, investments, and programmes.

270. With AF funds: Through an enhanced open-access platform, the Programme will generate learning, systematize experiences, and utilize all information produced to promote regional knowledge exchange and the dissemination of adaptive best practices. Dialogue spaces and joint monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities will be carried out with FONTAGRO's technical network, improving the quality, effectiveness, and scalability potential of the funded projects.

M. Sustainability

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

271. The sustainability of the programme and its projects is integrated from the design stage, ensuring that results and benefits endure beyond the funding period and can be scaled. To achieve this, the programme considers institutional, financial, technical, and social dimensions in a coordinated manner. Additionally, among the selection criteria, priority is given to projects that present a sustainability and scaling plan.

272. Sustainability is explicitly **assessed and scored at Stage 2 of the selection and evaluation framework**. Minimum sustainability provisions will be required from all projects financed by the programme, proportionate to innovation stage and scale, and will be set out in the Call Guidelines. These minimum sustainability provisions are assessed primarily under 'Sustainability, scalability and replication potential', while institutional readiness and continuity enablers are also reflected in 'Institutional and technical team capacity & alignment' and 'Capacity building, training strategy'.

273. At a minimum, projects financed by the programme will be required to submit an initial **sustainability plan** that includes: (i) technical sustainability, through a basic operation and maintenance (O&M) plan appropriate to the technology/practice being piloted, including responsibilities, required skills, and indicative post-grant costs; (ii) institutional sustainability, by identifying at least one local or national institution (e.g., producer organization, research institute, extension service, cooperative, private operator, or local authority) with a defined role in hosting, supporting, or championing the innovation beyond the grant period; and (iii) human and organizational capacity, through targeted training and knowledge-transfer activities enabling local actors (including vulnerable groups, where relevant) to operate, adapt, and/or replicate the solution after project closure. In addition, proposals will outline a credible continuation pathway—such as integration into existing programmes, private-sector uptake, and/or replication through regional platforms supported by the programme.

274. These minimum requirements are operationalized through two mechanisms. First, 'Sustainability, scalability and replication potential' and 'Capacity building, training strategy' together account for 7.5 points in the Stage 2 evaluation matrix (Annex V), making sustainability a substantive selection criterion. Second, the FONTAGRO Call Guidelines will include a dedicated sustainability section in the application form requiring each proposal to describe concrete mechanisms — appropriate to the type and scale of the innovation — to ensure continuation, institutional ownership, or maintenance of results beyond the grant period. Projects reaching the acceleration phase will additionally receive targeted PMU support to refine their sustainability plans, including post-grant O&M cost estimates and institutional hosting arrangements. Progress in implementing the sustainability plan will be tracked through the standardized reporting framework and will inform scale-up readiness assessment under Subactivity 3.1.3a.

275. In this way, **technical and operational sustainability** will be ensured through the identification, validation, and strengthening of projects that demonstrate particularly promising results, with evidence-based innovative solutions and high potential for replicability and scalability. These solutions will be evaluated in real-world contexts during the acceleration phase, documenting results and lessons learned to facilitate their adaptation and adoption in different territories. Through Component 3, replicable models, lessons, and evidence will be systematized for use by communities, institutions, and development agencies.

276. **Financial sustainability** relies on the demonstrative value of small grants and the validated adaptive models they generate. The programme operationalizes investment mobilization through a structured, lifecycle-based approach that engages potential financing partners throughout implementation — not only at programme close.

277. Scale-up readiness screening is conducted at two moments: at mid-term and prior to project completion. Agreed criteria include technical viability, evidence of beneficiary demand, cost-effectiveness trajectory, and social inclusion outcomes. Projects meeting the threshold at either point become eligible for differentiated support, which includes: business model

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refinement; financial structuring guidance aligned with the requirements of development finance institutions and national climate funds; investor matchmaking through the Science–Community Partnership Marketplace (Activity 2.1.3); and preparation of documentation packages for the Adaptation Fund's Large Projects or Innovation Programmes. In addition, Subactivity 3.1.3.a will provide incentives and a scale-up pipeline by competitively identifying successful cases with scaling potential and supporting their promotion for replication and follow-on financing (including targeted knowledge products and the identification of relevant funding sources and calls).

278. The PMU plays an active brokering role throughout systematically mapping relevant funding opportunities across CAF member countries, matching specific projects to identified calls as they advance, and leveraging CAF's institutional relationships with development finance institutions, IICA's national networks, and FONTAGRO's digital platform to generate investor-ready pitching materials. Potential financing partners — including NDAs, multilateral entities, and private actors — are engaged from year one through innovation sessions (Activity 2.1.2) and knowledge exchange events (Activity 3.1.2), ensuring early visibility before scale-up conversations begin.

279. **Table 8** below summarizes the financing support mechanisms deployed at each programme lifecycle stage

Table 8. Financing support mechanisms by programme lifecycle stage

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

280. Realistic success rates for securing follow-on financing are expected to remain in the 20–30% range, consistent with global innovation accelerator benchmarks, as acknowledged in the programme's risk management section.

281. In terms of **institutional sustainability**, the programme will strengthen the technical and organizational capacities of key actors in the agricultural ecosystem in LAC, including communities and producer associations, public institutions, and research centres, among others. By empowering these actors in the design and implementation of adaptation solutions, it ensures that capacities remain within the territories and can sustain and expand interventions once funding ends.

282. Finally, social sustainability will be promoted through local ownership from the outset, ensuring that solutions respond to concrete needs and are co-created with producers from climate-vulnerable communities. This will strengthen the cultural and social relevance of interventions and foster their continuity over time. Priority will be given to the leadership of vulnerable groups—particularly women and youth—in the implementation and dissemination of innovative practices. A community-centred, locally led adaptation approach is key to ensuring the accessibility, legitimacy, and long-term sustainability of solutions beyond programme support.

N. Environmental and Social Impact and Risk

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

283. The Programme and its activities have undergone a preliminary environmental and social risk assessment against the 15 principles established in the Adaptation Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy, as presented in the table below. The complete risk screening questionnaire, together with the corresponding mitigation measures, is provided in Annex II of this proposal.

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284. Based on the preliminary risk assessment, the Programme has been classified as Category B risk (see Annex II, Classification Section). The identified risk level is mainly due to the fact that most activities cannot be specified or assessed at this stage. Climate innovation initiatives are considered Unidentified Subprojects (USPs) and will be identified and selected at the outset of the proposed Climate Innovation Acceleration Programme. Once the nature of the innovations and their implementation contexts are known, the applicable risk level for each innovation and context will be determined. Therefore, this risk assessment is conducted at the programmatic level, considering risks and provisions within the scope of the ESMP. Each selected initiative entering the climate accelerator will carry out its own environmental and social risk assessment and develop the corresponding mitigation measures.

285. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), together with the Grievance Mechanism, is included in Annex II in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's requirements. At the programmatic level, the ESMP provides mechanisms to track identified risks, as well as any new risks, ensuring that they are properly assessed, monitored, reported, and addressed. The ESMP will be reviewed at a later stage based on the risk assessments of the USPs and will continue to be further developed throughout programme implementation.

Table 9. Programme Environmental and Social Risks

AF environmental and social principles	**Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance**	**Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance**
1. Compliance with the Law	**Complies.** Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring, periodic compliance checks, and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme will ensure full compliance with environmental, land use, and water resource management laws and regulations in all participating LAC countries. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process during the subproject selection phase. The AFCIA–CAF evaluation, selection, and technical support mechanisms ensure that projects comply with national regulatory requirements from design through implementation, including environmental and social safeguards, licenses, permits, and relevant controls. In addition, the institutional capacity-building measures envisaged under the Programme contribute to the consistent and robust application of regulations across different national contexts. The Programme will conduct periodic ESS compliance checks through the ESMP. Applicants will be required to demonstrate alignment with national technical standards and legal frameworks at the project design stage (Component 1). In cases of identified non-compliance with national regulations or any environmental and social safeguards during project execution, the PMU will work closely with the partnership to implement a graduated management process focused on corrective support and timely resolution, guided by three specific pathways: progression, adaptation, or discontinuation, as detailed in Section 10 of this ESMS.
2. Access and Equity	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** *Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.*	**Moderate risk.** Systemic inequities in the rural sector and limited access to financing, decision-making, and services for women may create barriers to equitable participation in innovation activities. While the Programme incorporates an inclusive approach with a particular focus on women producers, there remains a moderate risk that structural exclusion may persist (e.g., women-led organizations). The Programme mitigates this risk through inclusive participation mechanisms and targeted outreach actions for women's groups. **Mitigation measures:** Apply inclusive selection criteria that give weight to partnerships led by women, youth, and representatives of Indigenous communities; ensure a transparent selection process; require gender analysis and a Gender Action Plan in proposals; and monitor beneficiary participation using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, and age (Component 1). An explicit commitment to ensure that information and communication channels are available at least in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with interpretation support provided where appropriate.
3. Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** *Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters,*	**Moderate risk.** Vulnerable groups—including young women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, single mothers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and subsistence rural households—face compounded disadvantages in terms of resilience and participation in innovation processes. These vulnerabilities are recognized in the Gender Analysis in Annex IV, particularly in relation to informal economies,

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AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.	disproportionate unpaid care burdens, and differentiated impacts of extreme climate events. While the Programme integrates safeguards and seeks to include diverse participants in innovation design and implementation, there remains a risk of underrepresentation or unintentional exclusion without sustained, targeted support. **Mitigation measures:** Applicants must demonstrate inclusive engagement, include vulnerability-disaggregated indicators (primarily by gender, Indigenous status, and age, while remaining open to other characteristics), and submit proposals reviewed by the evaluation panel identifying inclusion gaps and risks. Activities may include care services to reduce participation barriers and enable effective engagement (Components 1 and 2).
4. Human Rights	**Complies.** Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme adopts a human right based and people-centred approach, ensuring non-discrimination, freedom of association, and equitable access to programme benefits for smallholders, rural communities, and other stakeholders. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. The programme will ensure respect for human rights through mandatory safeguards screening and monitoring through the ESMP. Projects (Component 1) will integrate, from the design stage, principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Component 2 will provide technical support in safeguards and gender to strengthen risk identification and management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
5. Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** *Compliance is ensured through the upfront screening filters, specific mitigation frameworks such as the Gender Action Plan, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.*	**Moderate risk.** While the Programme integrates a gender approach, varying capacities among stakeholders may limit the quality of implementation. This risk is mitigated through a structured Gender Action Plan, targeted technical support and mentoring, and a monitoring system that measures not only participation but also benefits, leadership, and influence. **Mitigation measures:** Evaluate proposals using criteria that prioritize gender equity and women's leadership; require gender analysis and Gender Action Plans in all proposals; prioritize initiatives led by women researchers, extension agents, and producers (Component 1); provide technical assistance for gender mainstreaming and women's economic empowerment (Component 2); monitor gender-specific results; and highlight successful innovations benefiting rural women through gender-sensitive communication products (Component 3).
6. Core Labour Rights	**Complies.** Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects throughout implementation.	The Programme will ensure compliance with national labour legislation and ILO core labour standards. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. Regular monitoring will verify compliance with national labour legislation and ILO fundamental labour standards across all projects. Proposal screening (Component 1) will ensure that labour requirements are integrated at the design stage and that employment conditions comply with applicable national regulations. Safeguards monitoring through the ESMP will oversee implementation. Component 2 will provide technical support to ensure proper integration and effective application of labour standards throughout project execution.
7. Indigenous Peoples	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, mandatory Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols, and subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.	Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process. The Programme recognizes the ethnic and cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, where many Indigenous peoples maintain distinct identities, governance systems, territories, and cultural practices. Science–Community Partnerships innovation processes may involve Indigenous organizations, communities, or territories. Participation of Indigenous peoples is voluntary and will occur through inclusive co-design processes with explicit consent mechanisms. However, in diverse sociocultural contexts, there is a risk that Indigenous participation may not be fully representative or that the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) may not be adequately applied during project formulation. **Mitigation measures:** Require FPIC processes in project co-design (Component 1); ensure cultural appropriateness of support and capacity-building processes through the technical team (Component 2).

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AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
8. Involuntary Resettlement	**Complies.** No additional assessment is required as compliance is guaranteed through mandatory exclusion at the screening stage	Complies through exclusion. Any subproject involving involuntary physical or economic displacement is classified as Category A and is strictly excluded from financing at the Stage 1 eligibility check; establishment of alert and control mechanisms to ensure compliance with exclusion criteria (Component 3).
9. Protection of Natural Habitats	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Projects will comply with national biodiversity plans and regulations and will undergo risk-proportionate environmental assessments to ensure no adverse impacts on flora, fauna, or sensitive ecosystems. **Mitigation measures:** Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); incorporate specific measures in ESMPs to protect natural habitats (Component 2).
10. Conservation of Biological Diversity	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Projects will align with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. ESIAs/ESMPs will assess site-specific risks and apply mitigation measures, such as avoiding installations affecting bird nesting areas, native vegetation, wetlands, or mangrove ecosystems. **Mitigation measures:** Avoid introduction of non-native species (Component 1); require site-specific environmental assessments (ESIA/ESMP) for subprojects located near sensitive habitats (Component 1).
11. Climate Change	**Complies.** Compliance is ensured through the ESMS, including continuous monitoring and screening of subprojects.	The Programme focuses on climate adaptation, strengthening resilience to floods, storms, droughts, and other hazards. Programme-level risks are managed through the upfront ESMS screening process during the subproject selection phase. Agroforestry or agricultural projects will be small-scale and subject to exclusion criteria preventing significant adverse impacts.
12. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** *Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, mandatory subproject-level ESMPs, and continuous monitoring.*	**Moderate risk.** Construction-related activities may generate waste, noise, dust, or minor pollution if not properly managed. Given the diversity of expected projects, there is a risk of waste generation and inefficient resource use. All projects must comply with national waste management regulations and requirements for efficient use of water, energy, and materials. **Mitigation measures:** Require simple waste management plans where applicable (Component 1); verify compliance with environmental safeguards during implementation (Component 3).
13. Public Health	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** Specific risk profiles and management measures will be tailored during subproject screening.	Potential impacts and risks will be formally assessed through subproject-level screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. The programme will prevent public health risks through safeguards screening and the integration of preventive measures into the ESMP. Projects will align with national regulations and good public health practices from Component 1; Component 2 will provide technical support to strengthen health risk management. The measures will be implemented and monitored throughout project execution.
14. Physical and Cultural Heritage	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** Specific risk profiles and management measures will be	Associated with potential risks requiring further assessment. Risk identification will be finalized through subproject screening during the selection phase. Any required mitigation measures will be explicitly defined at that stage and incorporated into the site-specific ESMP to ensure compliance. Programme and project activities are not expected to take place in areas containing physical or cultural heritage, nor will

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AF environmental and social principles	Requires additional assessment to ensure compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	tailored during subproject screening.	they restrict community access to such resources. Design and implementation will avoid any alteration, damage, or removal of recognized cultural assets. ESS screening will identify nearby heritage sites; if present, a risk analysis will be conducted and mitigation measures defined in consultation with authorities and community leaders. **Mitigation measures:** Require applicants to identify culturally sensitive sites and potential impacts (Component 1); exclude projects that could damage physical or cultural heritage (Component 1 – exclusion list).
15. Lands and Soil Conservation	**Associated with risks requiring mitigation.** *Compliance is ensured through upfront screening filters, land-use exclusion criteria, and mandatory subproject-level ESMPs paired with continuous monitoring.*	**Moderate risk.** The Programme promotes sustainable soil conservation approaches in land-related interventions. Although exclusion criteria apply to activities involving intensive land use, minor risks may arise from small-scale installations (e.g., building improvements, water tanks). Site-specific assessments and periodic ESS monitoring will be conducted, particularly for infrastructure and WASH activities, incorporating ecological studies to identify fragile soils and prevent impacts. **Mitigation measures:** Promote nature-based solutions and appropriate site design during proposal co-development (Component 1); apply safeguard assessments and monitoring for projects with potential soil impacts (Component 3).

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Arrangements for Project Implementation

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

CAF's Comparative Advantage

286. CAF has a solid track record as a strategic partner in financing and implementing sustainable development programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Its established technical presence in 21 member countries, together with its comprehensive operational capacity—from project design to execution and monitoring—position it as a key regional actor. Accredited as a Regional Implementing Entity by the Adaptation Fund since March 2014, and also by other international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), CAF has demonstrated robust fiduciary, environmental, and social capacities, making it a suitable entity to channel climate finance toward innovative and transformative solutions.

287. In the field of sustainable finance, CAF succeeded in 2024 in converting 41% of its portfolio into green investments, reaching a consolidated portfolio of over USD 34 billion directed toward ecosystem protection, resilient infrastructure, marine conservation, and climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. In that same year, USD 15.787 billion were approved for sustainable development in the region, of which USD 7.094 billion were allocated to strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, improving access to finance for SMEs, and fostering sustainable investments.

288. In the area of climate adaptation, CAF manages emblematic projects in river basins, coastal cities, and transboundary ecosystems, acting as an implementing entity for both the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. CAF has developed initiatives in countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Its technical and institutional approach includes strong experience in environmental and social safeguards aligned with the international standards of both funds.

289. Between 2014 and 2024, CAF allocated USD 1.808 billion in credit operations, equity investments, and technical cooperation to promote a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector. These actions included corporate loans, credit lines to financial institutions, and the management of international funds such as the GEF and the GCF, totalling USD 140 million. As a result, the incomes of at least 550,000 families and 210,000 agricultural producers in the region improved.

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Greater access to finance and to sustainable technologies was fostered, along with increased availability of inputs, stronger value-chain integration, and the adoption of climate-resilient practices such as efficient water use, seed genetic improvement, and producer certification. CAF has also announced an investment of USD 8.5 billion through 2030 to advance agricultural prosperity with a sustainable, resilient, and regenerative approach, consolidating its role as a key financial driver of the sector in the region.

290. In the field of innovation, incubation, and acceleration, CAF reaffirms its commitment to technological and business development through the promotion of innovation ecosystems aimed at competitiveness and sustainability. By supporting startups, venture funds, and collaborative projects, CAF fosters the growth of high-impact strategic sectors.

291. CAF launched InNatureLab, together with LATIMPACTO and the Trafigura Foundation, a programme that supports innovative bioeconomy solutions through financial and non-financial assistance. This open innovation and co-creation laboratory includes the participation of vulnerable local communities in strategic ecosystems, promoting sustainable development models.

292. In partnership with the GCF, CAF implements the Green MSMEs LAC programme, which helps small and medium-sized enterprises in Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru transition to more sustainable practices. The programme is expected to benefit over 1,200 MSMEs with green financing, generate more than 5,000 green jobs, and train 720 MSMEs, 39% of which are expected to be women-led. The programme offers attractive financial conditions—such as concessional rates and grace periods—facilitating investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable land use. Technical assistance is also provided to identify projects, measure GHG emissions, and strengthen environmental and social risk management (SARAS) and gender strategies.

293. CAF also promotes financial education and inclusion programmes. To date, an estimated 7.7 million people and 55,024 micro and small enterprises have benefited from financial inclusion projects, and over 19 million people from financial education initiatives. The Financial Inclusion Lab (LIF 2024) stands out to support technological solutions—such as artificial intelligence—to close financial inclusion gaps. In its sixth edition, the LIF received 219 applications, evaluated 93 proposals, and selected 8 winners, with an estimated impact of more than 31,000 underserved people and 8,190 MSMEs.

294. CAF possesses key institutional advantages: a regional structure that facilitates coordination across multiple countries; a multidisciplinary technical approach integrating social, environmental, and productive dimensions; and the ability to mobilize complementary financial resources, both public and private. Its role as a supranational institution uniquely positions it to foster South-South cooperation, scale up learnings, and replicate innovative solutions at the regional level. In 2024, CAF reaffirmed its commitment to biodiversity through strategic partnerships and new initiatives, consolidating its role as a regional facilitator in the environmental agenda.

295. Within the AFCIA programme, CAF's participation as an accredited entity will enable effective coordination across sectors and countries, connect local innovators with climate finance opportunities, and ensure an efficient, inclusive, and results-based implementation. This will strengthen scalability, sustainability, and the transformative impact of the proposed programme.

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

296. IICA and FONTAGRO maintain a consolidated and complementary institutional relationship. IICA serves as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat of FONTAGRO, providing technical, operational and fiduciary support IICA is responsible for the financial administration and technical management of FONTAGRO projects, while FONTAGRO leads the technical management of regional initiatives. This collaboration has proven effective in the joint implementation of agricultural innovation and climate adaptation projects across Latin America and the Caribbean.

297. FONTAGRO and IICA are ideal strategic partners for the execution of the AFCIA programme. FONTAGRO brings more than two decades of experience in financing and coordinating agricultural research and innovation consortia with a regional, multisectoral, and results-oriented approach. IICA, for its part, has an extensive track record in the implementation of large-scale programmes, with territorial presence in all countries of the region, strong technical capacities, and a broad cooperation network involving governments, research centres, producers, and grassroots organizations.

298. Both partners share a vision centred on transforming agrifood systems with equity, resilience, and sustainability. They have operational mechanisms for fiduciary management, social and environmental safeguards, and impact monitoring, ensuring efficiency, transparency, and alignment with the standards of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.

299. FONTAGRO has the following strengths relevant to the programme:

- Effective presence in territories and communities vulnerable to climate risk (e.g., Indigenous communities in the Southern Cone).
- Ability to connect science, local communities, and public institutions, generating tangible impact.
- Proven participatory innovation models adapted to local and cultural contexts.

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- Established networks of scientific and productive cooperation, backed by technical expertise and collaborative financing.

300. IICA is the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for Agriculture and Rural Development, with more than 80 years of experience and permanent presence in the 34 member countries of the Americas. Its mission is to support Member States in achieving sustainable agricultural development, food security, and climate resilience through technical cooperation, innovation, and coordination among agricultural sector stakeholders.

301. The Institute has extensive experience in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of regional projects, working with governments, international organizations, producer associations, research centres, and rural communities. It possesses multidisciplinary technical capacities, knowledge networks, regional platforms, and mechanisms to ensure compliance with environmental, social, and fiduciary standards, in accordance with the requirements of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.

302. In addition, IICA promotes the transformation of agrifood systems with an emphasis on sustainability, inclusion, and climate adaptation, facilitating participatory innovation processes and institutional strengthening across the continent.

Institutional structure

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

Implementing Entity (IE): CAF

304. CAF will act as the Implementing Entity (IE) before the Adaptation Fund and will be responsible for:

- the overall supervision of the programme,
- compliance with fiduciary, environmental, social, and gender policies,
- validation of milestones and reports,
- formal liaison with the Adaptation Fund.

305. CAF will also participate in the strategic governance of the programme.

306. In accordance with Adaptation Fund guidelines, CAF will coordinate the contracting of the mid-term evaluation and the final evaluation of the programme. These evaluations will be carried out by independent external entities and are mandatory requirements of the Fund to ensure quality, learning, and accountability.

Executing Entity (EE): IICA

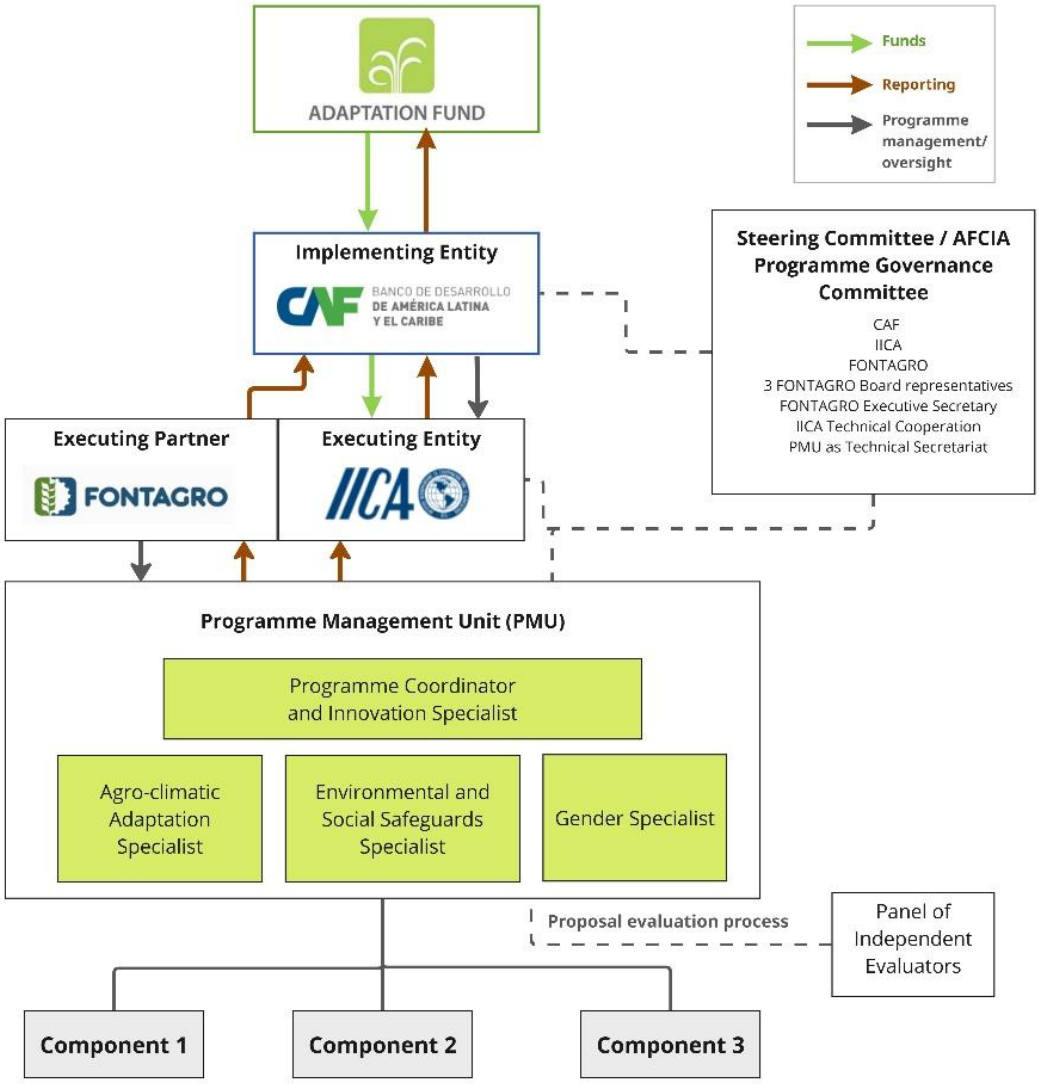
307. The Executing Entity will be the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which will be the institution signing the legal agreement with CAF.

Executing Partner: FONTAGRO

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

Figure 6. Institutional structure of the programme.

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Roles of IICA and FONTAGRO

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

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

310. FONTAGRO, as the technical lead and in coordination with IICA, will be responsible for:

- the technical direction of the programme.
- the design and management of competitive calls for proposals.
- technical support to the partnerships.
- the integration and monitoring of environmental, social, and gender safeguards.
- knowledge management and dissemination of results.

311. CAF, as the Implementing Entity, will receive the grant resources from the Adaptation Fund and retain overall fiduciary responsibility, financial oversight, and reporting obligations to the Fund. IICA, as the Executing Entity, will be responsible

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for the operational execution of program activities under a formal agreement with CAF, budget including execution, contracting, and coordination with national partners.

312. FONTAGRO does not receive administrative or management fees directly from CAF or IICA. FONTAGRO's role is to provide technical support to IICA's implementation, including support for call design, evaluation processes, monitoring frameworks, and knowledge management, drawing on its existing institutional platforms and expertise. Any costs associated with FONTAGRO's technical support functions are explicitly budgeted within program components, are activity-based, and are embedded within IICA's execution budget, ensuring full transparency and traceability.

313. No parallel structures are created, and no overlapping management fees are charged across administrative institutions. Financial arrangements are governed by clearly defined scopes of work, detailed budgets, and reporting requirements, which are subject to CAF's fiduciary oversight and audit procedures.

Programme Governance Committee and FONTAGRO Governance Alignment

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

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

Composition of the PMU

315. The PMU will be composed of:

- Programme Coordinator and Innovation Specialist (combined role): leads the programme, coordinates the technical team, and also assumes monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions. Serves as the methodological lead for incubation and acceleration.
- Agro-climatic Adaptation Specialist
- Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist
- Gender Specialist

316. The PMU will be supported by IICA Administration and Finance staff .

317. The PMU specialists will provide cross-cutting technical assistance to beneficiary partnerships throughout all phases of the programme. Their responsibilities include:

- preparing Terms of Reference (ToR) for calls and evaluations.
- developing technical guidelines, manuals, and methodological tools.
- designing and delivering webinars, virtual workshops, and orientation sessions.
- providing technical support to selected projects on climate, environmental, social, gender, and innovation topics.
- supporting information consolidation for programme monitoring.
- coordinating with IICA's technical staff and national offices involved in country-level execution.
- contributing to knowledge management and the generation of learning products.

318. The Programme Coordinator–Innovation Specialist will lead planning, indicator tracking, report consolidation, and the strategic coordination of the PMU with CAF and relevant IICA departments.

319. The PMU will implement technical monitoring through FONTAGRO's monitoring platform, which integrates progress indicators as well as social, environmental, and gender indicators.

Programme Steering Committee / AFCIA Programme Governance Committee

320. The Programme Steering Committee will serve as the Programme's strategic governance body and, for the purposes of the AFCIA–CAF/FONTAGRO call, will ensure alignment with FONTAGRO's governance structure and competitive call procedures, as established in the FONTAGRO Operations Manual.

321. The Steering Committee will include representatives of CAF, IICA, and FONTAGRO. In line with FONTAGRO's recommendation, it will also include three representatives of FONTAGRO's Board of Directors — one from the Andean Region, one from Central America and the Caribbean, and one from the Southern Cone — as well as FONTAGRO's Executive Secretary and one representative from IICA's Technical Cooperation area. The PMU Coordinator will serve as Technical Secretariat.

322. The Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance, approve the Terms of Reference of the call, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, and approve the composition and profiles of the independent External Evaluation Panel. The Panel will review, score, rank, and recommend eligible proposals, but will not adopt financing decisions.

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323. The final decision on the innovation projects to be financed will be adopted jointly by the Programme Steering Committee and FONTAGRO, based on the technical recommendations of the External Evaluation Panel and subject to completion of the required eligibility, safeguards, fiduciary, and operational checks.
324. Following the final financing decision, IICA will proceed with the applicable agreement, procurement, contracting, and/or execution arrangements in accordance with IICA and FONTAGRO procedures. CAF will retain overall oversight and report responsibilities to the Adaptation Fund.

Call for Proposals and Evaluation Processes

325. Eligibility screening: Conducted by the PMU, including verification of formal, institutional, geographic, and strategic alignment criteria.
326. Independent technical evaluation: Eligible proposals will be assessed by a competitively selected panel of external evaluators.
327. Depending on the number of project proposals received, each evaluator will review approximately 35 proposals, assessing:
- technical and climate relevance, consistent with the Adaptation Fund criteria for innovation in adaptation.
- environmental and social safeguards.
- gender approach.
- methodological and operational viability.

328. Strict mechanisms will be implemented to ensure the absence of conflict of interest, with immediate reassignment of proposals when necessary.
329. The External Evaluation Panel will not adopt financing decisions. Its role will be to review, score, rank, and recommend proposals. The final financing decision will be adopted jointly by the Programme Steering Committee and FONTAGRO, based on the Panel's consolidated evaluation report and subject to completion of the required eligibility, safeguards, fiduciary, and operational checks.

Relationship with Beneficiary Partnerships

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

Partnerships will receive continuous technical support from the PMU.

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

B. Financial and project/programme risk management

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

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

Table 10. Financial and Project Risk Management Framework

Risk category	Risk description	Initial Risk		Proposed Mitigation measures
		Probability	Impact	

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

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

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Environmental	Climate and non-climate hazards prevent or delay the execution of activities	Medium	Medium	Adaptive management approaches and contingency planning will be used, with flexible implementation timelines. Regular communication with grantees will help reduce disruptions. FONTAGRO's regional presence and local Science–Community partnerships will support continuity.

C. Environmental and Social Risk Management

337. The risk management approach of the AFCIA–CAF programme is integrated into the mechanism's procedures and is designed to identify, assess, monitor, and support adaptation innovation projects through a system proportional and appropriate to the type of intervention.

338. Given that projects under the USP modality are not identified at the time of programme approval, certain Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) principle-level risks cannot be fully confirmed ex ante. Such risks will be identified and assessed through the subproject-level screening and risk categorization process, in accordance with the programme's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

339. The environmental and social risk management approach for subprojects under the AFCIA–CAF programme is implemented through a structured, sequential workflow fully integrated into the subproject cycle. This workflow covers: (i) initial E&S screening at the application stage (Stage 1, Annex V); (ii) risk categorization by the PMU prior to technical evaluation; (iii) preparation and approval of safeguards instruments (ESMP, GAP) as a prerequisite for grant agreement signature and first disbursement; (iv) continuous monitoring of ESMP and GAP implementation during project execution; and (v) periodic reporting and independent evaluation. No subproject will be approved for implementation, and no funds will be disbursed, until all required safeguards documentation has been approved by the PMU and, where applicable, reviewed by the evaluation panel. A consolidated step-by-step description of this workflow, including the actors responsible at each step and the required documentation, is provided in Table 4 in Section A above.

Principle of Proportionality in Screening and Safeguards Preparation

340. The programme will apply the principle of proportionality in screening and documentation requirements at the application stage, ensuring that the information requested is sufficient for the PMU and the evaluation panel to approve proposals, without compromising compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP).

341. Proposals must comply with the Stage 1 eligibility requirements (Table 5, Stage 1 Eligibility & Adaptation Screening criteria) which include adaptation relevance and alignment criteria. A minimum environmental and social safeguards screening will be conducted at the application stage. Based on its results, the PMU will determine the required safeguards instruments and provide technical support for the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Gender Action Plans (GAPs), and other instruments required prior to approval and disbursement.

342. Results frameworks and monitoring arrangements will be progressively strengthened to ensure rigor without creating undue barriers to participation.

Project-Level Environmental and Social Assessment

343. Given that the calls for proposals are specifically aimed at science-community partnerships, the proposals funded under the programme components are only defined at the submission stage. Each project submitted by these partnerships will undergo a comprehensive environmental and social assessment and risk categorization process prior to final approval and implementation. This ensures a robust, consistent and risk-sensitive Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) capable of adapting to the diversity of innovations and territorial contexts in which research institutions, extension agencies and community organizations participate.

344. The assessment and categorization process will be carried out using standardized tools and guidelines, applying a preliminary analysis tool (Anex II, Appendix I) that will then allow the PMU to assign a risk classification (Category B or C) to each project. The programme will not finance Category A (high risk) projects. Although the location and specific characteristics of the projects will be defined during each call for proposals, proposals are expected to fall within the scope of low- or moderate-risk interventions typical of science-community partnerships in productive territories.

345. Safeguards documentation must be substantially approved by the PMU before the grant agreement is signed. Where minor safeguards gaps are identified at approval stage, conditional approval may be granted, subject to completion of

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clearly defined corrective actions before first disbursement. No funds will be disbursed until all safeguards documentation has been fully approved and any outstanding conditions have been satisfied, consistent with the escalation procedures in Annex II, Section 10..

346. Compliance with these conditions will be verified by the PMU's Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist through a pre-disbursement safeguards compliance checklist, confirming: (i) the ESMP and GAP have been reviewed and approved (or, where conditional approval was granted, that all outstanding corrective actions have been completed); and (ii) documentary evidence that any required national permits or licenses have been secured. This checklist must be signed off by the PMU before IICA authorizes the first disbursement (Table 4, Step 7). Where outstanding conditions are not met within the agreed timeframe, the disbursement will be delayed or suspended, and the case will be escalated in accordance with the tiered compliance procedure described in Annex II (Section 10. Implementation monitoring, reporting and escalation).

347. Projects are expected to involve low to moderate environmental and social risks, generally site-specific, temporary and manageable. To manage these risks in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Management System (AF ESP / ESMS), the following measures have been integrated into the programme design:

Initial Assessment and Risk Categorization

348. Each science–community partnership project will present an initial environmental and social risk analysis, using the screening tool available in the ESMS (Appendix I), aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy. These will then be classified by the PMU.

349. Proposals will be classified as Category B (moderate risk) or Category C (minimal or low risk), based on the level of environmental and social risk.

350. The programme will not finance Category A (high-risk) projects as established by the Adaptation Fund (AF).

351. The categorization will determine the level of analysis required:

Category B: will require a detailed ESMP, based on site-specific information and informed by additional studies (e.g.,ESIA) when applicable.
Category C: will require a simplified ESMP, documenting regulatory compliance and establishing basic mitigation measures.

Integration of Safeguards and Design Support (Required Safeguards Documentation)

352. During the proposal design phase, the environmental and social safeguards specialist from the PMU, in alignment with the Adaptation Fund's standards, will provide support to the Science–Community Partnership teams to:
    - Identify social and environmental risks and opportunities,
    - Determine the project categorization in accordance with Adaptation Fund standards;
    - Formulate mitigation and management measures proportional to the level of risk;
    - Fully integrate the Adaptation Fund safeguard policies into the technical design;
    - Develop the required environmental and social management instruments.
    - Coordinate with the competent national/sectoral authority to obtain or confirm any required environmental, water-use, or other regulatory permits and licenses, without involving that authority in technical scoring or E&S risk categorization decisions.

353. All projects shall include an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) proportional to the level of risk identified. For low-risk projects (Category C), the ESMP may adopt a simplified format. For moderate-risk projects (Category B), the ESMP shall be more detailed and based on the results of the risk analysis.

354. Safeguards documentation may include, as applicable:
    - Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs);
    - Gender Action Plans (GAPs);
    - Stakeholder Engagement Plans;
    - Evidence of compliance with applicable environmental and public health regulations;
    - Environmental permits and licenses required under national legislation.

355. All required permits and licenses must be obtained and valid prior to the commencement of project implementation. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the delay, suspension, or cancellation of disbursements, in accordance with the programme’s safeguards procedures.

356. Each ESMP shall include, at a minimum:
    - Mitigation and management measures;

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- Clearly defined institutional responsibilities;
- Monitoring and follow-up indicators;
  Reporting mechanisms

Capacity Building

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

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

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

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

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

D. Monitoring & Evaluation

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

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

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

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

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

369. The monitoring responsibilities will be organized as follows:

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

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

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

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visits, progress reports, community interviews, and participatory reviews will be used to verify progress, validate reported information, assess operational feasibility, and discuss results with local stakeholders. Based on the evidence generated, subproject continuity and support will be guided through three pathways: progression, where the innovation advances to the next stage; adaptation, where technical, operational, social, environmental, or financial adjustments are required; or discontinuation, where persistent non-viability, non-compliance, or lack of feasibility justifies termination of support in line with Programme procedures.

- **Environmental, Social, and Gender Monitoring:** The environmental, social, and gender specialists of the PMU will oversee compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), the Programme's ESMS, and the Gender Action Plan (GAP), as well as oversee the effective participation of communities and beneficiaries and monitor local relevance within the sub-projects throughout the Programme lifecycle. Environmental, social, and gender indicators will be integrated into the Programme's M&E system and monitored throughout implementation. Science–Community Partnerships will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of approved safeguard measures and for submitting standardized periodic reports covering ESMP implementation, GAP progress, incidents, grievance records, stakeholders engagement, regulatory compliance and emerging risks. They will have to comply with applicable requirements and implement the approved management measures and plans, which will be part of the commitments undertaken in the agreement signed with the executing entity. The PMU's environmental, social, and gender specialists will will review these reports, conduct documentary checks, field visits, spot checks, and community consultations where needed, and prepare consolidated reports for CAF. Where gaps or non-compliance are identified, the Programme will apply a graduated escalation process, including written observations, corrective action plans, possible suspension of disbursements, and, in critical or repeated cases, potential termination of the grant agreement. Detailed arrangements are provided in Annex II, Environmental and Social Management System, including the implementation monitoring, reporting, grievance, and escalation procedures, and in Annex IV, Gender Action Plan.
- **Gender Results Monitoring and Aggregation**: In line with the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and the Programme's Gender Action Plan, the Programme will monitor gender equality and empowerment outcomes beyond participation counts. Each funded partnership will report sex-, age-, and, where relevant, ethnicity-disaggregated data, and will establish context-specific inclusion measures and targets based on an initial gender and social inclusion assessment. Programme-level reporting will consolidate indicators related to women beneficiaries reached, women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles, women-led or women co-led partnerships, women's access to innovation resources and opportunities, participation in technical and innovation roles, empowerment outcomes, and documented gender-responsive or gender-transformative adaptation practices. These results will be consolidated through FONTAGRO's monitoring platform and reflected in semi-annual progress reports, annual Project Performance Reports, the mid-term evaluation, the final evaluation, and knowledge products under Component 3. Further details are provided in Annex IV, Gender Action Plan.
- **Portfolio-Level Aggregation of Results and Benefit Distribution:** To enable meaningful aggregation, comparison, and verification of results across the portfolio, all selected Science–Community Partnerships will be required to report through a standardized set of indicators aligned with the Programme Results Framework, FONTAGRO monitoring practices, and Adaptation Fund reporting requirements. The PMU will provide standardized reporting templates, indicator definitions, data-entry formats, and evidence requirements through the FONTAGRO digital platform. Beyond individual project narratives, aggregated results, benefit distribution, and empowerment outcomes will be monitored and verified at portfolio level through the harmonized results framework embedded in the platform. The standardized indicator set will cover adaptation results, beneficiary reach, inclusion, gender outcomes, environmental and social co-benefits, economic co-benefits, adoption, replication, cost-effectiveness, and scaling potential. Programme-level findings will be triangulated through annual field visits, learning events, programme reviews, and independent mid-term and final evaluations.
- **Cost-Effectiveness Monitoring and Learning**: The Programme will monitor cost-effectiveness at project and portfolio levels using common proxy indicators and standardized definitions, as relevant to each innovation type, including cost per direct beneficiary reached, cost per hectare under climate-resilient management, and/or cost per validated adaptation outcome proxy. At entry and incubation stages, projects will provide preliminary unit-cost estimates, expected reach, adoption assumptions, and value-for-money logic. During acceleration and piloting, these assumptions will be tested under implementation conditions, generating evidence on delivery costs, adoption patterns, operational bottlenecks, efficiency gains from replication, and potential economies of scale. By completion, projects will be expected to validate whether their cost-effectiveness and sustainability assumptions remain viable beyond the grant period. The PMU will use harmonized templates and the FONTAGRO platform to aggregate and visualize cost-effectiveness evidence by country, agroecological context, sector, innovation type, beneficiary group, adaptation outcome, and scaling potential.
- **Knowledge Management, Uptake, and Replication Monitoring**: The Programme will monitor not only the production and dissemination of knowledge products, but also how lessons emerging from individual Science–Community

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Partnerships are systematically captured, aggregated, synthesized, and translated into programme-level learning. Through the FONTAGRO digital monitoring and knowledge management platform, the PMU will compile structured information from project reports, learning diaries, test–learn–develop cycles, field visits, community feedback, outcome stories, and technical progress reviews. These inputs will be periodically analysed across countries, agroecological contexts, innovation types, beneficiary groups, adaptation outcomes, gender and inclusion dimensions, cost-effectiveness evidence, and scaling potential. The PMU, with support from FONTAGRO and relevant technical specialists, will synthesize cross-project findings into programme-level knowledge products, including learning briefs, case studies, comparative analyses, technical notes, webinars, and dissemination materials under Component 3. Indicators will track downloads, views, dissemination through digital platforms, documented interest in piloting or replicating supported solutions, and evidence of replication in new locations, institutions, or programmes. These findings will be reviewed periodically by the PMU and reflected in progress reports, Project Performance Reports, Adaptation Fund reporting, the mid-term evaluation, and the final evaluation.

- **Annual monitoring and preparation of the Project Performance Report** (PPR). The PMU coordinator will consolidate the available technical, financial, environmental, social, gender, cost-effectiveness, and knowledge management data to complete the annual PPR report, which will assess performance against targets, risks, safeguards, benefit distribution and implementation progress. CAF will review and process this information in compliance with the Adaptation Fund guidelines.
- **Annual supervision missions**. CAF will carry out annual field missions together with the PMU to review progress, verify results, identify operational challenges and risks, and formulate recommendations to optimize implementation.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation**. At the midterm of the Programme cycle, an external evaluation will be conducted to analyse the relevance, effectiveness, safeguard performance, gender results, adaptive management and early evidence of cost-effectiveness, and prospect for sustainability and scale. This evaluation will provide strategic recommendations to strengthen the second phase of the Programme. CAF will oversee this process and ensure technical quality in accordance with its institutional standards and AF requirements.
- **Project Completion Report**: Prior to conducting the final evaluation, the PMU will prepare the inputs to the Final Project Report summarizing results, lessons learned, progress against the results framework, financial execution, safeguards performance, gender results, cost-effectiveness evidence, knowledge uptake, replication potential and compliance with environmental, social, and gender plans. CAF will consolidate the Report, review and validate it for final submission to the Adaptation Fund. This report will serve as the main input for the independent team in charge of the final evaluation, facilitating a comprehensive analysis of implementation and achievements.
- **Final Programme Evaluation**. An independent consultant will carry out a final evaluation to assess results, sustainability, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, safeguards performance, gender equality and empowerment outcomes, knowledge uptake, replication potential, and lessons that can inform future programmes. The evaluation shall be aligned with the guidelines of the Adaptation Fund and CAF.
- **Closing workshop and dissemination of lessons learned**. Upon completion of the Programme, a virtual closing workshop will be held to share results, good practices, lessons learned and evidence on scalable and cost-effective adaptation innovations, as well as to promote opportunities for scaling up, replication, institutional uptake, and articulation with new initiatives or financing.

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

Table 11. Budgeted monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan

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

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

E. Results framework

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

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

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

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

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Youth indirect beneficiaries	0	31		

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Table 13. Results Framework

Project Objective	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification & Monitoring Responsibility (MR)	Risks and Assumptions
To promote the development, validation, and dissemination of innovative climate adaptation practices, tools, and processes for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector, co-designed by research institutions, technical assistance and extension services, and organizations and/or groups of small- and medium-scale farmers with the aim of strengthening the climate resilience of agricultural systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.	Number of accelerated and validated innovations that achieve scaling-up and demonstrate benefits of increased resilience for vulnerable groups GAP-O4 a) Number of innovation solutions validated (TRL 7–8) that demonstrate adaptation benefits specifically for women and vulnerable producers (e.g., reduced climate risk exposure, improved resilience practices, increased adaptive capacity)	0 0	10 At least 6 validated innovations show documented gender-responsive adaptation outcomes by programme end	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system + evaluation with evidence of adaptation benefits MR: PMU and CAF	• Community and institutional actors validate the innovations and apply the accelerated innovations. • Farmers find value in innovation • Estimates: 50% of the supported partnerships achieve scaling-up Direct beneficiaries include: 60 farmers or community actors per 20 innovation projects, and 120 institutional actors with increased capacity and knowledge on innovation for adaptation in the agricultural sector. Indirect beneficiaries assumes that two projects will be able to document replication and spillover effects with a similar number of community members (thus, 120 indirect beneficiaries). Adaptation benefit: specific indicators to demonstrate the adaptation outcomes will be defined for each selected innovation project and a mandatory requirement for disbursement. At this stage it is not possible to know upfront what type of projects will be selected.
	Total number of beneficiaries with increased adaptive capacity to climate impacts in the agricultural sector. Women Of which, youth Of which Indigenous People Men Of which, youth Of which Indigenous People GAP indicators contribute to this Project Objective indicator GAP-A A1.1.1.1.i) - GAP-A1.1.2.1,i), ii) - GAPA-1.2.1.2.i) - GAP-A1.2.2.1.i) - GAP-A2.1.1.1.i) - GAP-A2.1.1.2.ii) - GAP-A3.1.1.2.ii)- GAP-A3.1.3.1.ii)	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1440 504 100 36 936 280 84	Evaluation MR: PMU and CAF	

Component 1:					
Outcome//Output	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Means of Verification & Monitoring**	**Risks and Assumptions**
Outcome 1 Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative	Number of innovation solutions that are field-tested with vulnerable communities for agricultural adaptation (TRL-6).	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	•Actors can dedicate time and personnel to collaborative co-design processes.

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agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	Number of innovators supported by the Programme who manage to field-test the innovation with vulnerable producers, of which <u>Women</u> Of which, youth Of which, Indigenous People <u>Men</u> Of which, youth Of which, Indigenous People	0	1320 462 92 36 858 257 84	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	• The technical, climate, and socio-environmental information required for design is available. • Partnerships achieve internal agreements and minimum governance arrangements. • There are no significant regulatory barriers to developing prototypes (inputs, technologies, permits). Estimate: Institutional actors: 6 institutional representatives per partnership Community actors: 60 producers or community actors per partnership Estimate: 4 technical institution representatives per 300 partnerships <u>Estimate:</u> 3 community members per 300 partnerships
	Number of Partnerships that carry out at least one iterative learning cycle and record the process and evidence of the innovation.	0	20	Project monitoring platform MR: PMU	
GAP Outcome 1: Women's leadership and decision-making in partnerships **GAP-O1.** Ensure that Science–Community Partnerships supported by the Programme strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making spaces throughout incubation and acceleration	a) % of funded partnerships where women hold at least one formal leadership or decision-making role (technical lead, community lead, or steering role within the alliance) b) % of women participating in funded partnerships who report increased influence in project-related decision-making, co-design processes, or innovation planning compared to project inception..	0 0	40% 40%	FONTAGRO digital monitoring platform + partnership governance records Reviewed Mid-term and final evaluation MR: PMU	• Gender norms may limit women's leadership roles. • Assumes inclusive selection criteria and mentoring support women's participation in governance.
Output 1.1 Regional call for proposals disseminated and Science–Community Partnerships supported for formulating	Number of regional calls for proposals launched including gender and inclusion considerations	0	1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system. *Call guidelines and application package explicitly incorporating gender-responsive selection criteria and safeguards requirements GAP-A1.1.1.1i), ii), iii)*	•

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

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

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

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

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Outcome 2: Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	Number of institutions from the partnerships that demonstrate strengthened capacities to co-design, validate and test innovative climate adaptation solutions, integrating the needs of the most vulnerable groups to climate change, as well as social, environmental, and gender aspects.	0	40	Evaluation FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; training completion records and application evidence MR: PMU and CAF	• Innovation cycles and technical assistance generate useful and actionable learnings. • Actors are able to dedicate time and personnel to collaborative co-design processes. • Women technical staff are able to participate meaningfully. • Key actors are willing to collaborate. • Partnerships integrate gender and ESS into monitoring beyond participation metrics.
	Number of producers or community actors who have tested and applied innovative adaptation solutions incubated or accelerated by the Programme	0	1200	Evaluation FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; field-testing records; beneficiary feedback MR: PMU and CAF	
	<u>Women</u>	0	360		
	Of which youth	0	72		
	Of which Indigenous Peoples	0	36		
	<u>Men</u>	0	840		
	Of which youth	0	252		
	Of which Indigenous Peoples	0	84		
	Number of financed partnerships that report increased knowledge on agricultural innovation, environmental and social issues, gender, and the measurement of agricultural resilience benefits.	0	20	Evaluation FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; MR: PMU and CAF	
	Focused on women's groups	0	6		
	Focused on youth groups	0	2		
	Focused on Indigenous Peoples' groups	0	1		
GAP Outcome 2: Women's participation in technical and innovation roles. **GAP-O2.** Provide targeted capacity strengthening and mentoring to enable women to actively contribute to the technical design, testing, and validation of climate adaptation innovations	a) % of funded projects in which women actively lead or co-lead at least one innovation-related function during the incubation or acceleration process (e.g. field testing, data collection, validation of results, technical adjustments, knowledge generation, extension activities or innovation dissemination). b) % of women participating in Science–Community Partnerships who report increased confidence and capacity to engage in technical, innovation, or adaptation-related roles compared to project inception.	0 0	40% 40%	Innovation cycle documentation + technical reports + middle and final evaluation MR PMU	• Structural barriers may reduce women's access to innovation and scaling pathways. • Assumes targeted outreach and support mechanisms enable women-led partnerships.
Output 2.1: Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches	Number of institutions trained in climate – resilient agricultural innovations, environmental, social, and gender topics, with participation of	0	40	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; training modules completed *Childcare and translation services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory events to promote equitity participation GAP-A2.1.1.3.i), ii)*	• Communities, scientist and institutional stakeholders take part in training activities
	Women	0	20		
	Youth	0	8		
	Indigenous Peoples	0	4		

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	GAP-A2.1.1.i), ii), iii)			MR: PMU	
	Number of people participating in open innovation sessions to enhance exchange and learning. Of which women Of which men Of which youth Of which Indigenous Peoples GAP-A2.1.1.1.i); iii)	0 0 0 0 0	400 140 260 40 40	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; participation records; session agendas ensuring inclusive representation *Childcare and translation services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory events to promote equitity participation GAP-A2.1.1.3.i), ii)* MR: PMU and CAF	Estimate: 20 people per open innovation session
	Number of partnerships receiving technical assistance to scale up or replicate their projects. GAP-A2.1.1.1.i) GAP-A2.1.1.2.i), ii)	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; acceleration support documentation MR: PMU	
	Number of marketplace-type events held to facilitate interaction between innovators and potential financiers.	0	1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; event reports *Childcare and translation services or other care arrangements in workshops, innovation sessions, and participatory events to promote equitity participation GAP-A2.1.1.3.i), ii)* MR: PMU	
Component 3					
Outcome 3: Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	Number of knowledge products and dissemination spaces with validated evidence of adaptation benefits for vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector achieved through innovations accelerated by the Programme.	0	32	Systematization; FONTAGRO digital monitoring system; knowledge products repository MR: PMU	• There are funding opportunities and calls for proposals to scale up and replicate the most prominent innovations. Estimate: Compiles output (6 dissemination initiatives + 20 publications + 1 systematization + 1 online catalogue + 2 policy briefs + 2 dialogue roundtables).
	Percentage of participatory instances and knowledge products that promote equity and	0	100%	Record of equity and inclusion measures	100% of participatory instances include equity and inclusion considerations.

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	inclusion (language, schedules, women speakers).			MR: PMU	
	Number of publications downloads related to the programme	0	400	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	
	Number of views of disseminated information through digital platforms	0	5,000 annually	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	• Empowerment outcomes may vary across sociocultural contexts. • Assumes participatory co-design and inclusive monitoring strengthen women's agency over adaptation decisions.
	Number of institutions participating in Science–Community Partnerships that, through Programme-supported knowledge management, learning and evidence-use processes, demonstrate a strengthened mandate, dedicated resources and/or sustained functions to lead innovation for adaptation to climate change, disaggregated by geographic scale and type of institution.	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system MR: PMU	
	Number of documented cases of uptake, including replication, piloting, interest in replication or use of Programme knowledge products and evidence to inform scaling discussions, investment opportunities, public programmes or adaptation planning in new locations or programmes	0	5	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system;) MR: PMU	
GAP Outcome 3: Women's access to innovation resources and economic benefits. **GAP-O3.** Strengthen women's access to innovation-related resources, tools, and follow-on opportunities for scaling adaptation solutions (This outcome is expected to contribute to the programme-level indicator on beneficiaries with increased adaptive capacity to climate impacts in the agricultural sector, disaggregated by sex, age, and Indigenous status)	% of women beneficiaries reporting improved access to innovation-related resources, services, or opportunities through the Programme, including training, technical assistance, productive inputs, technologies, participation in innovation testing/validation processes, and or scaling pathways for adaptation solutions.	0	50%	Baseline at entry Follow-up surveys at mid-term and closure MR: PMU	• Broader inequalities may constrain women's access to productive resources. • Assumes innovations and technical support reduce barriers and improve access

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Output 3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Number of participants in workshops or dissemination and learning events and policy dialogue, with inclusive representation Women Of which youth Of which Indigenous Men Of which youth Of which Indigenous GAP-A3.1.1.2.ii)	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	240 84 16 8 156 46 15	Records of participants *inclusive participation measures aligned with GAP-A3.2.1.2.i)); GAP-A3.1.1.1.i)* MR: PMU	•institutional actors are interested in sharing and learning events. Estimate: Programme dissemination and communication initiatives: 2 workshops at mid-term and closure (100 participants in each). 4 annual FONTAGRO workshops with 10 participants per workshop.
	Number of the Programme's dissemination and communication initiatives with a gender-sensitive language management protocol.	0	6	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system *Gender-sensitive communication aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i)* MR: PMU	
	Number of scientific publications with a gender sensitive language GAP-A3.1.2.1.ii)	0	5	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system *Visibility of women-led innovations aligned with* GAP-A3.1.2.1.i) MR: PMU MR: PMU	
	Number of dissemination webinars conducted by the Community-Science Partnerships GAP-A3.1.2.1.ii)	0	40	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system *Gender-sensitive communication aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i)*	
	Number of technical publications with a gender-sensitive language management protocol.	0	20	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system *Communication protocol aligned with GAP-A3.2.1.1.i)* MR: PMU	
	Number of systematized success stories Of which focused on women GAP-A3.1.3.1.i) GAP-A3.1.3.1.ii) ii) % of women beneficiaries reporting increased access to innovation resources, technologies or financing opportunities	0 0 0	6 1 Al least 40% of women beneficiaries.	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system *Women-led innovation visibility aligned with GAP-A3.1.2.1.i), ii)* MR: PMU	
	Online catalogue of innovative solutions created	0	1	FONTAGRO digital monitoring system *Ensure that all information, communication, message, or communication product incorporates gender approach GAP-A3.1.2.1.i), ii)* MR: PMU	

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	Number of policy briefs with policy recommendations based on Programme learnings, including recommendations on gender, youth, and interculturality. GAP-A3.1.3.2.i)	0	5	Project monitoring platform *Policy influence aligned with GAP-A3.1.1.1.i)* MR: PMU	
	Number of dialogue roundtables held with decision-makers. GAP-A3.1.3.2.ii)	0	2	Project monitoring platform *Inclusive governance and women's voice aligned with GAP-A3.1.1.1.i)* MR: PMU	

F. Alignment with the results framework of the Adaptation Fund

Demonstrate how the project / programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund.
Project outcomes should be aligned with the Fund level outcome for innovation (Outcome 8) of the Strategic Results Framework and all others that may apply in the context of the project/programme. Please follow additional guidance provided in Document AFB/PPRC.29/44[48]

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

Project Outcomes	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Science–Community partnerships implement iterative innovation cycles (test–learn–develop) to develop and pilot innovative agricultural adaptation solutions in the territories	Number of accelerated and validated innovations that achieve scaling-up and demonstrate benefits of increased resilience for vulnerable groups	**Outcome 8:** Innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change accelerated, encouraged and enabled to scale up	Indicator 8A: Innovations successfully reaching scale up that demonstrate local innovation participation and/or local innovation benefit	5,194,960
Community and institutional actors with strengthened capacities to co-design, test, and validate adaptation innovations, incorporating gender, environmental, and social considerations	Number of institutions from the partnerships that demonstrate strengthened capacities to co-design, validate and test innovative climate adaptation solutions, integrating the needs of the most vulnerable groups to climate change, as well as social, environmental, and gender aspects.	**Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	Indicator 2. Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience [# of institutions, disaggregated by scale, by sector, and by type of institution]	594,180
Strengthened knowledge management to support the dissemination, scaling, and replication of innovative agricultural adaptation solutions	Number of institutions participating in Science–Community Partnerships that, through Programme-supported knowledge management, learning and evidence-use processes, demonstrate a strengthened mandate, dedicated resources and/or sustained functions to	**Outcome 8:** Innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change accelerated, encouraged and enabled to scale up	Indicator 8B: Institutions created and/or enabled that lead on innovation for adaptation to climate change	771,320

[48] Available at: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AFB.PPRC_.29.44-Guidance-to-IEs-for-inclusion-of-objectives-and-Indicators-for-Innovation.pdf

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	lead innovation for adaptation to climate change, disaggregated by geographic scale and type of institution.			
Total outcome-level grant amount				**6,560,460**
Project Output(s)	**Project Output Indicator(s)**	**Adaptation Fund Output**	**Adaptation Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
1.1 Regional call for proposals disseminated and Science–Community Partnerships supported for formulating innovative agricultural adaptation projects. 1.2 Innovative agricultural adaptation projects co-designed and financed	Number of innovation solutions that are field-tested with vulnerable communities for agricultural adaptation (TRL-6).	**Output 8.1** Innovations identified and piloted that collectively enhance local innovation capacity and contribute to the development of local, national and regional adaptation innovation ecosystems	Indicator 8.1B: Innovations piloted that demonstrate local innovation participation and/ or local innovation benefit [# of innovations]	5,194,960
2.1 Community and institutional actors trained in co-design, experimentation, and validation methodologies for adaptation innovations with gender, environmental, and social approaches	Number of institutions trained in climate – resilient agricultural innovations, environmental, social, and gender topics	***Output 2.1***: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	Indicator 2.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience [# of institutions, disaggregated by scale, by sector, and by type of institution]	594,180
3.1 Knowledge on climate innovations for the agricultural sector generated and disseminated	Number of the Programme's dissemination and communication initiatives with a gender-sensitive language management protocol	Output 8.2: Innovations identified and piloted which build the adaptation innovation evidence base and institutional capacity	Indicator 8.2: Innovation-focused knowledge products disseminated and/or learning events facilitated that support and enable innovation capacity at a local, national, and/or regional level	771,320
Total output level grant amount				**6,560,460**

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G. Detailed budget

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

Table 15. Detailed budget

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

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

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

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

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

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									The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the projects and the programme, development of success stories, conducting workshops, among other tasks. Availability percentage for Activity 3.1.1 in all years (20%)
			Contractual Services-Companies	100,000				**100,000**	Study of demand in the production sector, survey of the producer.
			Travel		120,000	120,000		**240,000**	Technical-specialist visits supporting subproject implementation and evidence generation: It is estimated that 20 trips by international and regional experts for 6 people for an average value of $2,000 per person for a visit to the territory and monitoring.
			Consultant	3,000	3,000	3,000	5,000	**14,000**	M&E Consultant to support the review of the results reports and provide

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

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										3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the projects and the programme, development of success stories, among other tasks. Availability percentage for Activity 3.1.2 in year 4 (20%)
				Consultant				18,000	**18,000**	Senior Consultant: Expert in communication to develop the publications of successful cases. With a cost of USD 4,500 per month for 4 months last year
				Travel	12,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	**72,000**	Regional learning-event travel: Trip for FONTAGRO's annual regional workshop first year 6 people, then increases to 10. They have an average total

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										value of $2,000 per person per year.
				Contractual Services-Companies				10,000	**10,000**	Translation Services
		Activity 3.1.3 Provide incentives for successful cases with scaling up potential	Subactivity 3.1.3 a Organize a competition to identify scaling up potential	Grants				45,000	**45,000**	USD 15,000 award to 3 projects to develop TRL9 (FONTAGRO success story competitions)
			Subactivity 3.1.3 b Promotion of scaling and replication of successful cases	Consultants				21,120	**21,120**	4 Senior Consultants, monthly salary for four years: Programme Coordinator: USD 6,500 (100% availability) (77% to Components) ESS Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Gender Specialist: USD 3,600 (100% availability) (100% to Components) Agroclimatic Adaptation Specialist: USD 4,500 (100% availability) (100% to Components) The consultants will provide technical support on monitoring the

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

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							Coordinator visits supporting subproject implementation and evidence generation
	Administrative cost	415,280	65,204	77,850	43,852	602,186	Program administrative costs: this includes coordination between IICA headquarters and country offices, processing and consolidation of financial and operational management of subprojects, including procurement, payments and financial reporting of subprojects. It includes also the overall financial management of the programme, including the executing entity's audited financial statements, personnel administration, and coordination support for programme execution. Additionally, the percentage accounts for use

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							of office facilities, equipment, and supplies required for programme execution.
TOTAL PEC		441,364	88,204	100,850	81,852	**712,270**	
Total project (components + PEC)		5,793,564	442,404	635,710	401,052	**7,272,730**	
Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)						727,270	
Amount of Financing Requested						**8,000,000**	

Table 16. IE management fee

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

*CAF AF Corporate cost: includes costs related to overall AF CAF related activities, including CAF AF country engagement and/or capacity building; activities related to CAF AF project cycles, at the portfolio level, CAF AF overall administrative staff contracts and information management systems; overall CAF AF Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) policy management and compliance functions across the AF portfolio; participation in AF portfolio-level activities, including related travel.

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H. Disbursement schedule

Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.

Table 17. Disbursement schedule

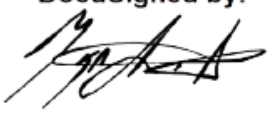
	Upon signature of Agreement	One Year after Project Start a)	Year 2b)	Year 3	Total
Scheduled date	**mar-2027**	**mar-2028**	**mar-2029**	**mar-2030**	
Project Funds	5,793,564	442,404	635,710	401,052	**7,272,730**
Implementing Entity Fees	231,800	191,800	121,800	181,870	**727,270**
Total	**6,025,364**	**634,204**	**757,510**	**582,922**	**8,000,000**

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PART IV: CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Implementing Entity certification

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

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.
DocuSigned by:  DDB6954B1401403... *Ignacio LORENZO ARANA* *Director for Technical Advisory on Climate and Biodiversity* *Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Department* AF CAF Coordinator
Date: *December 23th, 2025* — Tel. and email:+598.99180424 ilorenzo@caf.com
Project Contact Person: Miguel Alejandro Guzmán Mendoza / Oscar Javier Guevara Arévalo
Tel.: +598 29173211 Email: mguzman@caf.com / oguevara@caf.com

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