CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: *Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes*

Country: Benin

Thematic Focal Area: Agriculture / Water resource / Ecosystem services

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat (FNEC)

Executing Entities: Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC)

Amount of Financing Requested: 4,992,677 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes ☒ No ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: 231,105 (149,730 + 81,375) (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☒ No ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☒ This concept has been submitted before

☐ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 8/24/2026

Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ANPC	:	National Civil Protection Agency
ATDA	:	Territorial Agency for Agricultural Development
CCLC	:	Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes
CND	:	Nationally Determined Contributions
DGEC	:	Directorate General for the Environment and Climate
DGEFC	:	Directorate General for Water, Forests and Hunting

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EDA	:	Enhanced Direct Access Mechanism
EPIC	:	Intermunicipal Public Cooperation Authority
FA	:	Adaptation Fund
FNEC	:	Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat
FONCAT	:	National Disaster Response Fund
GCF	:	Green Climate Fund
GUPS	:	Single Window for Social Protection
MAEP	:	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
NC	:	Concept Note
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goals
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
PCC	:	Municipal Contingency Plan
PCRRC	:	Municipal Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
PNA	:	National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan Adaptation
PNRRC – ACC	:	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change
PRCC-CCLC	:	Climate Change Resilience Project for Vulnerable Populations in the CCLC

A – Project/Programme Background and Context:

Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate.

1 – Project context

Climate change poses a major threat to the socio-economic development of nations, with particularly pronounced impacts in developing countries[1]. They have caused significant damage and increasingly irreversible losses within terrestrial, aquatic, cryospheric, coastal, and oceanic ecosystems. All of these impacts jeopardize food security, complicate the sustainable management of water resources, and hinder efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the effects of climate change exacerbate existing inequalities and further marginalize the most vulnerable groups, including women, youth, rural populations, and Indigenous communities, whose livelihoods are heavily dependent on climate-sensitive natural resources[2].

West Africa is experiencing faster global warming than the global average, with average annual temperatures rising between 1 and 3°C since the mid-1970s. At the same time, rainfall patterns are characterized by increased variability and increasingly frequent extreme weather events[3]. Countries in the region, including Benin, have limited capacity to deal with climate risks, particularly in terms of technical, organizational and financial resources[4]. Benin is particularly vulnerable, exposed to increasing variability in climate extremes (floods, droughts, heat waves), which seriously and lastingly compromises its socio-economic development[5]. According to estimates, losses related to the 2019 floods amounted to approximately US$91.1 million, primarily affecting agriculture, livestock farming,

[1] GIEC (2019). Résumé à l'intention des décideurs, Changement climatique et terres émergées : rapport spécial du GIEC sur le changement climatique, la désertification, la dégradation des sols, la gestion durable des terres, la sécurité alimentaire et les flux de gaz à effet de serre dans les écosystèmes terrestres. [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.- O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (dir. publ.)]. Sous presse

[2] IPCC (2023). Synthesis report of the IPCC sixth Assessment Report (AR6): summary for policymakers. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 36 p.

[3] https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/chapter/chapter-9/?utm_source=chatgpt.com, accessed May 11, 2025.

[4] Saber, M., Koroma, A., Posite, R. V., Ly, A., Tejan Bah, A. M., Abdulai, A., ... & Mewafy, F. (2025). A comprehensive review of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Africa. *Journal of Water and Climate Change*, *16*(5), 1831-1862.

[5] Azagoun, V. V. A., Komi, K., Vissin, E. W., & Klassou, K. S. (2025). Analysis of the Dynamics of Hydroclimatic Extremes in Urban Areas: The Case of Grand-Nokoué in Benin, West Africa. *Climate*, *13*(2), 39.

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fishing, industry, commerce, and services, with the destruction of nearly 4,900 hectares of crops[6].

In Benin, communities located on the edge of the coastal and Atlantic lagoons are highly exposed to the effects of climate change[7]. This densely populated coastal and lagoon area (approximately 1.9 million people, or 17% of the national population)[8] is characterized by active coastal erosion (up to 30m/year in Cotonou) and increased flooding, linked both to rising sea levels and to reduced sediment flow caused by the construction of upstream dams. Exposure to climate variability in this lagoon area poses a threat to habitats, infrastructure, and local livelihoods, particularly artisanal fishing and subsistence farming dependent on the lagoons[9]. In these municipalities, the hydrological variability of the lagoons (irregular opening or closing of sand barriers, salinization, sedimentation) destabilizes ecosystems, reducing local yields and increasing economic and health risks for populations that are often marginalized and lack robust institutional crisis management mechanisms[10]. Faced with this situation, these communities are particularly vulnerable to climatic and socio-economic impacts, making it urgent to strengthen adaptation measures and implement resilience tools adapted to these sensitive areas of Southwest Benin.

1.1 –Geographical, socio-economic and climatic profile of Benin

1.1.1 – Geographical profile of Benin

Benin is a coastal country in West Africa located in the tropical zone, between the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer (latitudes 6°30' to 12°30' North and longitudes 1° to 3°40' East), extending approximately 700 km from north to south, with a 121 km coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. Administratively, it currently comprises 12 departments subdivided into 77 communes, 546 arrondissements, and 5,290 villages or city districts[11]. Its geographic configuration provides remarkable natural diversity, with five major physical regions, including a low coastal and lagoon plain, a hilly central plateau, fertile plains in the east, the Atacora mountain range in the northwest, and wetlands in the south. The country is drained by several major river basins, including those of the Niger, Ouémé, Mono-Couffo, and Volta, and hosts numerous strategic water bodies such as Lake Nokoué, Lake Ahémé, and the Porto-Novo lagoon[12]. This hydrographic wealth represents both an economic potential and a source of vulnerability to climate hazards, particularly floods, coastal erosion, saline intrusion, and seasonal droughts

Rainfall varies significantly across regions, ranging from over 1,200 mm/year in Cotonou to less than 900 mm in northern areas. The gently undulating terrain, often degraded silico-clay soils, and the dependence of rural communities on natural resources (rainfed agriculture, lagoon fishing, extensive livestock farming) increase the country's exposure to the effects of climate change. This vulnerability is particularly pronounced in coastal and lagoon areas, where a significant proportion of the national population lives, facing recurrent extreme events and the absence of robust institutional adaptation mechanisms. Figure 1 below shows the geographical situation of Benin, highlighting the project's beneficiary municipalities.

[6] Azagoun, V. V. A., Komi, K., Vissin, E. W., & Klassou, K. S. (2025). Analysis of the Dynamics of Hydroclimatic Extremes in Urban Areas: The Case of Grand-Nokoué in Benin, West Africa. *Climate*, *13*(2), 39.
[7] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PNA_BENIN_2022_0.pdf, accessed May 11, 2025.
[8] https://www.wacaprogram.org/country/benin, accessed May 11, 2025.
[9] https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/12/06/benin-can-create-opportunities-for-a-just-energy-transition-and-green-inclusive-growth-world-bank-report?utm
[10] Davies-Vollum, K. S., Koomson, D., & Raha, D. (2024). Coastal lagoons of West Africa: a scoping study of environmental status and management challenges. *Anthropocene Coasts*, *7*(1), 7.
[11] Law No. 2013-05 of May 27, 2013, concerning the creation, organization, powers and operation of local administrative units in the Republic of Benin.
[12] https://presidence.bj/home/le-benin/geographie/, accessed May 15, 2025.

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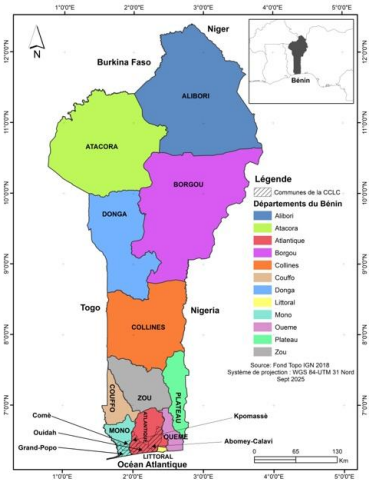


Figure 1 : Geographical location of Benin
Source: National Geographic Institute (IGN), 2018.

1.1.2 – Socio-economic profile of Benin

Benin, a small francophone state in West Africa, has been classified as a lower-middle-income country since 2020. With an open economy, fertile agricultural land, and recognized political stability, the country also benefits from a strategic location at the heart of the Abidjan-Lagos and Cotonou-Niamey economic corridors, making it a regional hub for trade and services. The population of Benin is estimated at approximately 13.7 million in 2024, with a very young demographic structure (over two-thirds under 25 years old)[13], predominantly concentrated in the southern and coastal areas.

Despite sustained economic growth over the past decade (7.5% in 2024) and a reduction in the national poverty rate to 31% in 2024 (down from 33.2% in 2023), disparities persist, particularly between urban areas (30%) and rural areas (nearly 38%)[14].. Approximately 70% of the active population depends on sectors highly sensitive to climate, such as rainfed agriculture, artisanal fishing, and subsistence activities. This heavy dependence increases the vulnerability of poor households to the growing impacts of climate change (droughts, floods, coastal erosion, hydrological variability)[15]. Without action, economic and employment losses related to climate hazards could undermine development gains and further exacerbate inequalities.

In this context, the implementation of an ambitious, inclusive, and equitable adaptation program is essential to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations, safeguard key productive sectors, and support a just transition toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development

1.1.3 – Climatic characteristics of Benin

Benin exhibits significant climatic diversity, which strongly influences its ecosystems, economic activities, and the living conditions of its population. The country is primarily characterized by two types of climate: a humid equatorial climate in the south, and a tropical climate in the central and northern regions. The south benefits from a bimodal rainfall pattern, with two rainy seasons (from April to mid-July and from mid-September to October) and two dry seasons (from November to March and from mid-July to mid-September), resulting in high humidity and dense vegetation. In contrast, the central and northern regions experience a tropical climate with a single season, a long dry season from November to April, followed by a shorter rainy season from June to September, often marked by significant interannual variability.

From an agro-climatic perspective, this climatic transition from south to north allows for the distinction

[13] https://www.wfp.org/operations/bj03-benin-country-strategic-plan-2024-2027?utm
[14] https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/07/17/benin-can-mobilize-more-domestic-resources-to-drive-inclusive-growth-and-equity?utm, accessed May 15, 2025.
[15] https://www.wfp.org/countries/benin?utm, accessed May 15, 2025.

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of three main zones: the Guineo-Congolian zone in the south, characterized by high humidity and forest-type vegetation; The central Sudanian-Guinean zone is a transitional zone, well-suited to rainfed agriculture, while the northern Sudanian zone is more arid, with scarcer water resources and predominantly savanna vegetation. This climatic diversity exposes the country to varying degrees of climate risk across different regions, ranging from recurrent flooding in the south to prolonged drought in the north, thus exacerbating the vulnerability of agricultural, water, and social systems nationwide. A thorough understanding of these climate dynamics is crucial for guiding adaptation priorities and directing investments toward differentiated and localized measures.

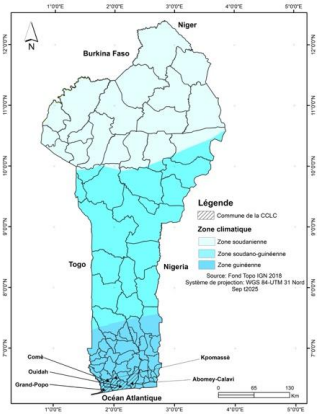


Figure 2 : Climatic zones of Benin
Source: National Geographic Institute (IGN), 2018.

The Guineo-Congolian zone, located in southern Benin between latitudes 10°00' and 12°20' North and longitudes 1°00' and 3°50' East, is characterized by a four-season climate, with an average annual rainfall of 1,217.1 mm distributed over approximately 87 rainy days. Monthly rainfall amplitude reaches 260.6 mm between the wettest and driest months. The annual average temperature is 27.4 °C, with an annual thermal amplitude of 3.7 °C. There is a long rainy season from April to July, followed by a short rainy season from September to mid-November, separated by two dry periods: a long dry season from mid-November to mid-March and a short dry season from mid-July to the end of August. Daily temperatures generally range between 25 °C and 29 °C, with relative humidity varying from 69% to 97%[16].

The Sudanian-Guinean zone, located in the central part of the country (between 8°00' and 10°00' North latitude, and 1°40' to 3°50' East longitude), constitutes a climatic transition area, marked by a hybrid rainfall regime between bimodal and unimodal patterns. Average annual rainfall ranges from 900 mm to 1,110 mm, spread over about 75 days. Relative humidity varies widely, from 31% to 98%, while average temperatures fluctuate between 25 °C and 29 °C throughout the year.

The Sudanian zone, covering the northern part of the country between 10°00' and 12°20' North latitude and 1°00' to 3°50' East longitude, is characterized by a drier climate, with average annual rainfall ranging from 900 mm to 1,100 mm, generally distributed over 71 days. Relative humidity shows strong seasonal variability, dropping to only 18% during the Harmattan period (December to February) and rising to 99% in August, at the peak of the rainy season. Monthly average temperatures range between 24 °C and 31 °C, with frequent peaks at the start of the dry season[17].

1.1.4 – Future climate variability in Benin

With global warming estimated at +1.1°C between 2011 and 2020[18], climate projections for West Africa (and therefore for Benin) suggest that the country will be increasingly exposed to severe and unpredictable weather events. Temperature anomalies recorded between 1981 and 2010 range from -

[16] MCVDD (2022), National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Benin, Cotonou, Benin, 175p.
[17] MCVDD (2022), National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Benin, Cotonou, Benin, 175p.
[18] IPCC (2023). Synthesis report of the IPCC sixth Assessment Report (AR6): summary for policymakers. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 36 p.

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0.7°C to +1.3°C[19],, confirming increasing thermal instability. Climate models predict widespread warming between 2030 and 2050, with deviations from normal ranging from +0.8°C to +2.3°C depending on the representative concentration scenarios (RCP2.6, RCP4.5, RCP8.5).

Regarding rainfall, significant uncertainty remains: some models predict a decrease in precipitation, while others project a slight increase depending on the region and temporal horizon. However, outputs from the CSIRO and CCCMA models indicate a prevailing trend toward a reduction in annual volumes, particularly in the vulnerable agricultural areas of central and northern Benin. Furthermore, analysis of the West African monsoon seasonal cycle suggests a potentially shorter and delayed mid-rainy season, with more frequent droughts and more intense rainfall events. These projections signal an increase in the risks to which the country is exposed, notably in rainfed agriculture, water resource management, and hydraulic infrastructure. They highlight the urgency of developing differentiated, resilient adaptation strategies based on available scientific data. Figure 3 illustrates these various dynamics related to climate warming.

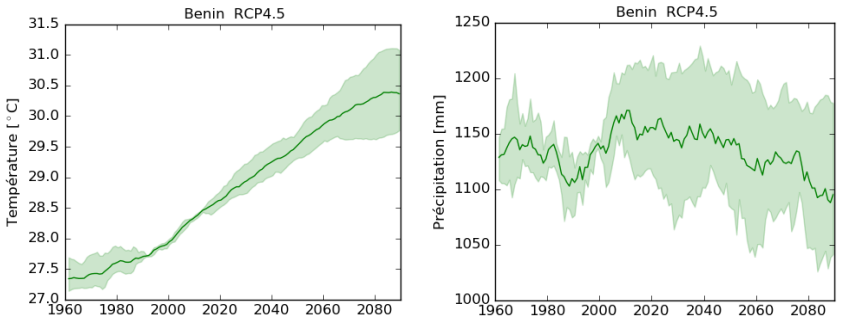


Figure 3: Projections from the regional climate model for annual precipitation (top) and temperature displayed as a 20-year moving average for Benin**.**
The line represents the ensemble mean, while the shaded area indicates the spread between models. The projections are based on the RCP4.5 emission scenario.

Source: Climate Analytics RegioClim Tool[20].

This overall warming trend is also confirmed under the SSP5-8.5 scenario. Under this scenario, Benin will experience an increase in the average surface air temperature, which is expected to reach 33.34°C (+/- 1.36), and rainfall will not only vary but is projected to increase, reaching 1,211.52 mm (+/- 94.26) by the end of the century[21].

1.2 – Selection of municipalities for project intervention

The Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) of Benin is an intermunicipal entity comprising the communes of Comé, Kpomassè, Grand-Popo, Ouidah, and Abomey-Calavi. These local authorities share an interconnected hydrological system, including the coastal lagoon, the Aho channel, Lake Ahémé, and the mouth known as “the King’s mouth” (**Figure 4**).

The intermunicipal area is situated in agro-ecological zones VI (the barren land zone) and VIII (the fisheries zone). Its local economy relies on diverse productive activities, including fishing, subsistence farming, cash crop cultivation, small-scale livestock farming, seasonal work, small-scale trade, and agri-food processing (INSAE, 2016)[22].

CCLC faces significant climate risks. This intermunicipal area is experiencing growing vulnerabilities, including annual flooding, rising sea levels, strong winds, extreme heat, and prolonged droughts. These events cause multiple environmental and socio-economic issues, including land degradation, coastal

[19] IPCC (2023). Synthesis report of the IPCC sixth Assessment Report (AR6): summary for policymakers. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 36 p.
[20] https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices, accessed on January 13, 2025..
[21] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/benin/trends-variability-projections, accessed on January 13, 2025.
[22] INSAE (2016) Main socio-demographic and economic indicators, Cotonou, Benin.

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erosion, reduced and failing fish reproduction, mangrove destruction, and increased food insecurity. In this context, funding local initiatives to build resilience to climate change is crucial for effective, sustainable adaptation for vulnerable communities.

2 – Geographic, socio-economic and climatic profile of the project's intervention areas

2.1 – Geographic, socio-economic and climatic profile of the municipalities of the CCLC in the Atlantique department

The municipalities of Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, and Kpomassè, located in the Atlantique Department, are characterized by a strong dependence on natural resources and significant exposure to climate risks. Abomey-Calavi, experiencing rapid demographic and urban growth, faces recurrent flooding, coastal erosion, and soil degradation. High heat and humidity further exacerbate health risks. Ouidah, situated on coastal and marshy plains, lies within a fisheries zone and is particularly vulnerable to flooding, soil salinization, and the depletion of fish resources. These risks are amplified by urbanization and pressure on ecosystems. Kpomassè, located on the shores of Lake Ahémé and its low-lying floodplains, experiences frequent flooding, sedimentation, and water pollution, reducing agricultural and fisheries productivity. Overall, coastal and lacustrine exposure, dependence on agricultural and fishery activities, population growth, and the lack of protective infrastructure strongly reinforce the socio-economic and ecological vulnerability of these municipalities, highlighting the urgent need for targeted adaptation actions.

From a socio-economic and cultural perspective, these municipalities are home to multiethnic populations whose livelihoods are closely linked to natural resources. Abomey-Calavi hosts a diverse population (Aïzo, Fon, Goun, Nago, Toffin, and Yoruba) spread across nine districts and 149 villages or neighborhoods, engaged in income-generating activities such as agriculture, fishing, trade, crafts, and tourism. Ouidah, primarily inhabited by Fon and Adja populations across ten districts and 77 villages, benefits from historical and cultural tourism. Kpomassè, a rural municipality on the shores of Lake Ahémé, includes Adja, Pédah, Fon, and Yoruba communities spread over nine districts and 76 villages, where traditional agricultural and fishing practices are deeply rooted in community life. Rainfall variability, flooding, and coastal erosion, combined with population pressure, settlement in high-risk areas, and insufficient infrastructure, increase the vulnerability of these populations and their livelihoods, underscoring the need for integrated and prioritized socio-ecological adaptation measures.

2.2– Geographical, socio-economic and climatic profile of the municipalities of the CCLC in the Mono department

The municipalities of Comé and Grand-Popo, located in southwestern Benin in the Mono Department, feature flat terrains composed of lowlands and floodplains, with a sandy coastal ridge in Grand-Popo. Comé is crossed by Lake Ahémé and tributaries of the Mono River, while Grand-Popo opens onto the Atlantic Ocean. Both municipalities experience a tropical climate, with Comé having two rainy and two dry seasons, and Grand-Popo experiencing four alternating seasons of rain and drought. This combination of low elevation, exposure to rivers and the sea, and high rainfall variability exposes their populations to recurrent flooding, sedimentation, coastal erosion, soil salinization, and degradation of water resources, directly affecting agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture.

These geographical and climatic conditions, combined with the residents' strong dependence on natural resources, also shape the socio-economic and cultural profiles of the municipalities. Comé and Grand-Popo have approximately 80,000 and 66,000 inhabitants, respectively, spread across five and seven districts and numerous villages. The populations are multiethnic: Comé is home to the Xwéla, Waci, and Sawxè, while Grand-Popo includes the Xwla, Xuéla, and Guens. A wide diversity of religious and cultural practices is also integrated into community life. The local economy relies on agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, trade, crafts, and, in the case of Comé, cultural tourism sectors that provide the majority of income and employment. These activities, highly dependent on natural resources and climatic conditions, combined with population pressure and insufficient adapted infrastructure, increase the socio-economic and cultural vulnerability of these municipalities to climate change.

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3 – Vulnerability of CCLC municipalities to climate change

The project will benefit the communities of the five municipalities that form the Community of Coastal Lagoon Commune (CCLC) in Benin: Grand-Popo, Comè, Kpomassè, Ouidah, and Abomey-Calavi. These municipalities are located across the Mono and Atlantique Departments. This inter-municipal area, located in the coastal zone, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and faces significant environmental, social, and economic challenges. **Figure 4** displays the flooded cropland zones within the CCLC region. Cartographic analysis highlights substantial structural flood risks in these areas. Out of over 35,000 hectares of flood-prone land, nearly 14,500 hectares are used for agriculture, mainly near the coastline, around Lake Ahémé, the Aho channel, and in low-lying regions.

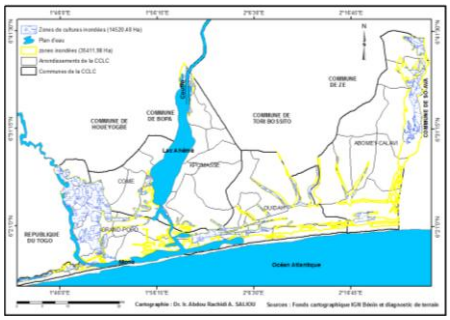


Figure 4 : Flooded agricultural areas

This overlap between agricultural production areas and high-risk zones highlights the direct vulnerability of local livelihoods in the municipalities of Grand-Popo, Comè, Ouidah, Kpomassè, and Abomey-Calavi. Recurrent flooding destroys food and vegetable crops, significantly reducing agricultural productivity and food security. The low topography and immediate proximity to water bodies further increase the territory's sensitivity to seasonal floods and rising groundwater levels. The absence of adequate drainage infrastructure and the degradation of natural buffer zones, such as mangroves, riverbanks, and gallery forests, exacerbate these impacts. This multi-sectoral vulnerability, affecting agricultural, ecological, and social sectors, requires urgent and targeted territorial adaptation responses to climate change.

These vulnerabilities translate into a range of specific climate and environmental risks. Flooding remains the primary risk, followed by localized droughts and strong winds, which notably contribute to mangrove destruction and roof damage. Soil water erosion affects different parts of the CCLC territory: lightly eroded areas are located in the southern parts of Grand-Popo and Ouidah, which are more exposed to coastal erosion; moderately eroded areas are found in the southern parts of Comè, Kpomassè, and Abomey-Calavi; and highly eroded areas correspond to the downstream sections of these same municipalities (Figure 4). These dynamics underscore the need to plan targeted interventions to strengthen community resilience, protect essential infrastructure, and preserve ecosystems that are vital for local livelihoods.

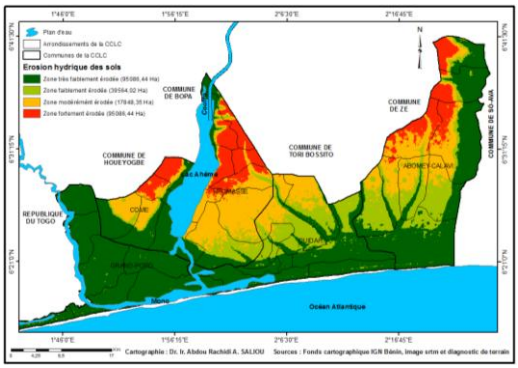


Figure 5 : Erosion hydrique des sols

3.1 Vulnerability of the municipalities of the CCLC in the Atlantic department

The climate vulnerability of the municipalities of Kpomassè, Ouidah, and Abomey-Calavi is primarily

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manifested in the intensification and recurrence of floods, which are identified as the dominant hazard in the municipal contingency plans. Additional risks include localized droughts, strong winds, and heatwaves. In Kpomassè, floods are highly likely and severe, persistently affecting agricultural areas and living spaces across several districts. Consequences include riverbank erosion, land degradation, reduced crop yields, decreased incomes, and heightened poverty, which, in turn, promote rural exodus. In Ouidah, climate hazards are concentrated in coastal and lagoon areas, where recurrent floods, often combined with strong winds, cause significant damage to homes, local infrastructure, and livelihoods, particularly in the most exposed districts. In Abomey-Calavi, vulnerability is exacerbated by disrupted rainfall patterns, characterized by more intense precipitation over short periods, leading to excessive runoff, accelerated soil erosion, and cyclical flooding. Concurrently, droughts, extreme heat, and strong winds increase environmental and social pressures. Across all three municipalities, these climate hazards have cumulative impacts on households and ecosystems, including crop and livestock losses, land and water resource degradation, and social effects such as weakened livelihoods, school dropouts, and increased exposure of women, children, and actors in the agricultural and fisheries sectors. These observations underscore the need for targeted and integrated adaptation interventions.

Climate projections (**Figure 6**) indicate a significant shift in rainfall patterns in Abomey-Calavi, Kpomassè, and Ouidah, with an earlier onset of the rainy season and higher precipitation totals at the beginning and end of the season. Projected monthly rainfall for May-June and September-October exceeds historical averages, while the short dry season tends to diminish. This increased concentration of rainfall over shorter periods significantly heightens the risks of flooding, runoff, and soil erosion, placing pressure on drainage infrastructure, agricultural lands, and residential areas, particularly in low-lying and densely populated areas of the Atlantique Department.

At the same time, a gradual and significant increase in average temperatures is projected in these three municipalities, accompanied by more frequent and intense heatwave events (**Figure 7**). The interaction between warming and high atmospheric humidity will exacerbate heat stress, increase health risks, and put greater pressure on water resources, while reducing agricultural productivity and ecosystem resilience. Combined with more irregular rainfall, these climate trends increase the vulnerability of households and livelihoods in these municipalities, underscoring the need for targeted, priority adaptation measures aligned with the Adaptation Fund's objectives.

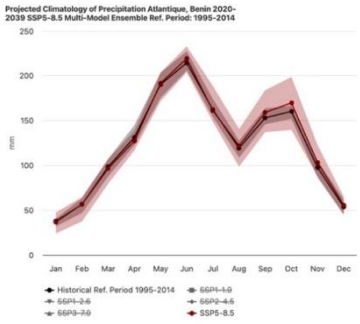


Figure 6 : Variability and projected trends in precipitation across the seasonal cycle for the Atlantic department

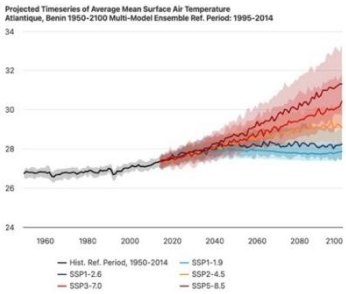


Figure 7 : Projected deviation from the natural variability of mean surface air temperature with trends for the Atlantic department

3.1 – Vulnerability of the municipalities of the CCLC in the Mono department

The municipalities of Grand-Popo and Comè, located in the Mono Department, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their low elevation, proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, Lake Ahémé, and the branches of the Mono River, as well as their strong dependence on natural resources. Gradual increases in temperature and rising atmospheric humidity intensify heat stress, pressure on water resources, and the degradation of coastal and lagoon ecosystems. These climate changes directly affect agricultural, horticultural, and fishery activities, which underpin local livelihoods, thereby increasing households' socio-economic vulnerability. Detailed projections of rainfall changes

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further confirm these trends and help to better understand the specific risks to which these municipalities are exposed.

Multi-model precipitation projections for the Mono Department, applicable to the municipalities of Grand-Popo and Comè, show a significant shift in the seasonal rainfall regime compared to the 1995–2014 period (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The rainy season is projected to start earlier, as early as March or April, with a marked increase in rainfall totals in May and particularly in June, reaching approximately 210 to 230 mm, depending on the climate scenarios. The short dry season of July–August is expected to weaken, while a second, more pronounced rainfall peak is projected in September–October, exceeding historical averages. This increased concentration of rainfall over short periods significantly raises the risks of flooding in low-lying areas, submersion of riverside zones, runoff, and soil erosion, particularly due to the low elevation and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, Lake Ahémé, and the branches of the Mono River. This situation heightens the vulnerability of agricultural, horticultural, and fishery activities, as well as livelihoods, in the municipalities of Grand-Popo and Comè.

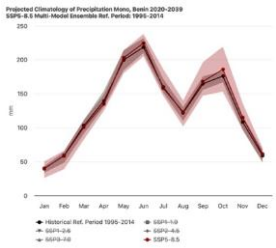


Figure 8 : Variability and projected trends of rainfall across the seasonal cycle for the Mono department

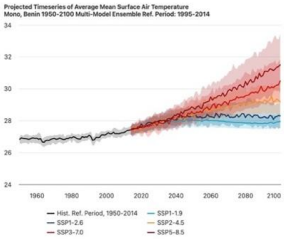


Figure 9 : Projected deviation from the natural variability of mean air surface temperature with trends for the Mono department

In summary, the main climate risks and vulnerabilities are flooding, degradation of agricultural land, and coastal erosion.

In response to these risks and vulnerabilities related to floods and drought pockets, the Community of Coastal Lagoon Commune (CCLC) in Benin has implemented various adaptation and resilience measures. These include support for alternative income-generating activities (such as credit provision, training, and capacity building for producers), the supply of food, seeds, and agricultural inputs, off-season crop production, promotion of short-cycle crops, community solidarity, temporary migration, raising building foundations, river transport, water management for agricultural purposes, diversification into other economic sectors, reforestation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. These challenges negatively impact basic resources and local livelihoods, increasing poverty and making communities progressively more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

5 – Projet choice

The communities of the CCLC will become increasingly vulnerable due to their limited adaptive capacities and high dependence on climate-sensitive resources such as water and agricultural production systems. Most environmental projects operating in the CCLC municipalities do not address the vulnerabilities of the community's basic livelihoods and means of subsistence. The figure below shows the coverage areas of these various projects (Figure 13).

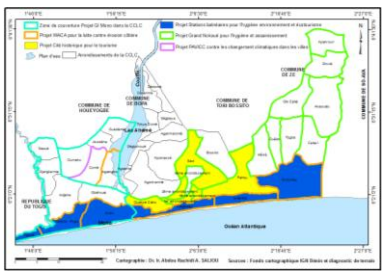


Figure 10 : Environmental projects within the CCLC

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Six projects, operating without coordination, are currently underway in the CCLC municipalities. These include the regional WACA project for coastal erosion control, the GI-Mono and Grand Nokoué waste management projects, the flagship PAG projects for developing seaside resorts with a focus on hygiene and sanitation, and the promotion of the historical city for tourism (only in Ouidah), as well as the PAVICC project on climate change (limited to the urban center of Comé). The stakes are high, as today's decisions will determine the living conditions of future generations. The sustainable development of the CCLC municipalities depends on finding solutions now to the multiple challenges caused by the adverse effects of climate change. Considering these environmental challenges, there is an urgent need to implement appropriate measures to improve the living conditions of the populations of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Commune (CCLC) and to strengthen their adaptive and resilience capacities to climate change.

B – Project/Programme Objectives:

List the main objectives of the project/programme.

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in the Community of Coastal Lagoons Communes (CCLC) against the impacts of climate change through concrete Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) initiatives.

Specifically, this involves:

- strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of stakeholders to improve the resilience of local communities' livelihoods against the impacts of climate change;
- establishing a local financing mechanism to support community initiatives for ecosystem restoration and crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains;
- developing tools for knowledge capitalization and management.

This project is fully aligned with the Adaptation Fund's results framework. It specifically targets the following results:

- **Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses**

The project strengthens the institutional capacity of CCLC and local organizations to understand and respond to climate risks by improving the skills and knowledge needed to develop value chains in the crop, livestock, and fisheries sectors amid climate change. It will also increase their readiness to access and allocate adaptation funds directly through the LLA approach.

- **Outcome 3: Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes**

The project aims to improve community awareness of climate change and empower local institutions and communities to decide how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented.

- **Outcome 5: Increased ecosystems resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress**

Through this project, lagoon and coastal ecosystems and natural resources will be protected, restored, and better managed.

- **Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in the target areas**

By developing climate-resilient crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains and sustainably improving food and nutrition security, the most vulnerable populations in the CCLC will diversify their income sources through the adoption of climate-resilient production practices and technologies.

C – Project/Programme Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, activities, expected concrete outputs, and the corresponding budgets. If necessary, please refer to the attached instructions for a

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detailed description of each term.

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

Table 1: Cost of project components

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US$)
Component 1: Strengthening the technical capacities of local communities to design and and implement Locally Led Adaptation initiatives that enhance the climate resilience of livelihoods	**Output 1.1:** an assessment report on climate change adaptation practices, needs, and technical and organizational capacity gaps of local actors involved in ecosystem restoration and climate-resilient crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains produced; eligibility criteria and menu of adaptation initiatives refined; training modules developed; capacity-building sessions delivered for ecosystem restoration actors and value chain stakeholders; and community-driven LLA initiatives designed	**Outcome 1.1:** Enhanced and sustained technical and organizational capacities of local actors engaged in ecosystem restoration and the development of crop, livestock, and aquaculture to design and implement LLA initiatives.	109,600
	Output 1.2: A capacity needs assessment report for the CCLC and local institutions produced; a structured training plan developed; institutional capacity-building workshops conducted; and 25 facilitators recruited and trained to support the identification, development, and monitoring of LLA subprojects	**Outcome 1.2:** Strengthened capacities of the CCLC and local institutions to identify, support, and monitor LLA subprojects that restore ecosystems and promote climate-resilient agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chains through inclusive and sustainable local governance.	816,800
Component 2: Selection, financing, and implementation of concrete Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) initiatives	**Output 2.1:** 01 revised procedures manual; 01 signed agreement between the FNEC and the CCLC; 01 fund transfer equivalent to the planned annual amount is implemented	**Outcome 2.1:** AF resources are mobilized through the FNEC to the CCLC to benefit of vulnerable communities through ecosystem restoration and agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chain development.	18,000
	Output 2.2: 40 local climate change adaptation initiatives are selected, 01 annual evaluation report	**Outcome 2.2:** The resilience of the livelihoods of vulnerable actors in ecosystems restoration and the development of crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains is strengthened through the implementation of LLA initiatives funded by the Adaptation Fund.	3,040,000
Component 3: Sustainability of project outcomes, Knowledge Management, and Learning	**Output 3.1:** 01 participatory and inclusive MEAL system is established; 01 mechanism for mobilizing sustainable financing is available	**Outcome 3.1:** Local governance of LLA initiatives is sustainably reinforced, and effective mechanisms for mobilizing additional resources are established to ensure sustainability and scale-up of project achievements.	60,000
	Output 3.2: 01 toolkit synthesizing the best practices and successes of the funded initiatives is available; 05 exchange visits are conducted; 05 experience-sharing workshops are organized; the FNEC website disseminates practices and lessons learned from the project; 02 information dissemination systems on adaptation measures are strengthened	**Outcome 3.2:** Knowledge management is strengthened, and lessons learned, as well as best practices for adaptation are documented, capitalized, and inclusively disseminated to promote learning, replication, and scaling up of climate change adaptation actions.	120,000
A – Project activities cost			4,164,400
B – Project execution cost (9.5% of total project cost)		CCLC (9.5% of total project cost)	437,146
Total project Cost (A + B)			4,601,546
C – FNEC management cost (8.5% implementation cost)			391,131
Amount of Financing Requested			**4,992,677**

The FNEC is the Implementing Entity. Its responsibilities regarding the local financing mechanism include designing and securing the fund-transfer mechanism (Activity 2.1.3), concluding the FNEC–CCLC agreement (Activity 2.1.2), and supervising the call for proposals. These functions constitute the Implementing Entity's fiduciary and oversight responsibilities and are covered by the 8.5% IE management

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fee. The CCLC is the sole executing entity and bears the full cost of project execution, which is equivalent to 9.5% of the total project cost (USD 437,146).

D – Projected Calendar:

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

Table 2 : Implementation period of the project

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

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A – Components of the project

Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience. Specify how the project/programme enables devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and gives local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored and how success is evaluated.

The project has three main components, namely:

- Strengthening the technical capacities of local communities to design and implement Locally Led Adaptation initiatives that enhance the climate resilience of livelihoods.
- Selection, financing, and implementation of concrete Locally Led Adaptation initiatives.
- Sustainability of project outcomes, Knowledge, Management, and Learning.

Component 1: Strengthening the technical capacities of local communities to design and implement Locally Led Adaptation initiatives that enhance the climate resilience of livelihoods

The first component of the project focuses on building the capacities of development actors within the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) eligible to receive subgrants, along with their technical and institutional partners. It aims to establish the conditions necessary for designing, implementing, and monitoring Locally Led Adaptation sub-projects (LLA). The target beneficiaries include community-based organizations, women's groups, youth groups, organizations representing persons with disabilities, and local governance structures involved in restoring ecosystems and developing sustainable value chains in crops, livestock, and aquaculture.

The expected results and outputs of this component address several cross-cutting constraints that local organizations commonly face when implementing climate adaptation initiatives. These include limited technical capacity to identify, design, and implement climate-resilient livelihood projects, as well as insufficient familiarity with the principles and operational requirements of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) approaches.

Accordingly, the component will provide beneficiary organizations with tailored technical support throughout the entire lifecycle of LLA sub-projects, from identifying local adaptation priorities to designing, planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating projects. The component will also enhance the CCLC's institutional capacity to effectively manage the selection process and oversee the implementation of LLA

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projects.

Outcome 1.1: Enhanced and sustained technical and organizational capacities of local actors engaged in ecosystem restoration and the development of crop, livestock, and aquaculture to design and implement LLA initiatives.

Activities under this outcome will focus on enhancing the technical and organizational capacities of potential local beneficiary organizations. This will help them effectively identify priorities and design, implement, and monitor locally led adaptation sub-projects.

Output 1.1: an assessment report on climate change adaptation practices, needs, and technical and organizational capacity gaps of local actors involved in ecosystem restoration and climate-resilient crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains produced; eligibility criteria and menu of adaptation initiatives refined; training modules developed; capacity-building sessions delivered for ecosystem restoration actors and value chain stakeholders; and community-driven LLA initiatives designed.

- ***Activity 1.1.1:*** *Conducting a participatory mapping of climate change adaptation initiatives and evaluating the technical and organizational capacity-building needs of local communities involved in ecosystem restoration, as well as developing crop, livestock, and aquaculture sectors.*

Identifying climate change adaptation initiatives and capacity-building needs will help guide the delivery of targeted technical assistance tailored to local priorities. This process will also enhance the eligibility criteria for locally led adaptation sub-projects that will be funded by the project (Annex 3). The needs assessment will specifically pinpoint gaps in the design, management, and monitoring of these sub-projects. Gender-responsive consultation workshops will involve a wide range of stakeholders in identifying and prioritizing adaptation initiatives and capacity-building needs. The results of these assessments will be compiled into a synthesis report that highlights the key adaptation initiatives of local communities within the CCLC, their technical and organizational capacity gaps, and recommended actions to address these gaps. This report will then serve as the basis for creating training modules for local stakeholders and for refining the sub-project eligibility criteria.

- ***Activity 1.1.2:*** *Development of gender-sensitive technical training for local communities involved in ecosystem restoration and value chain development in the crop, livestock, and aquaculture sectors.*

Building on the findings of activity 1.1.1, 04 training modules will be developed to enhance the technical skills of local stakeholders. These will include: (i) a general module on ecosystem restoration; (ii) a general module on developing climate-resilient value chains across the three priority sectors (crops, livestock, and aquaculture); (iii) a module on ecosystem restoration adapted to the specific socio-ecological context of the beneficiary communes; and (iv) a module on developing the three value chains aligned with the local context of the beneficiary communes. The last two modules will include real-world examples of LLA initiatives to demonstrate practical actions communities can take to boost the climate resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods. These modules will serve as essential tools for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and co-developing locally led adaptation sub-projects within the broader initiative.

- ***Activity 1.1.3:*** *Support for designing community-based adaptation initiatives for local communities involved in ecosystem restoration, as well as developing crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains.*

Through a combination of structured training modules and hands-on learning sessions informed by the results of activity 1.1.2, potential beneficiaries will be empowered to design and implement LLA initiatives. Practical exercises will focus on adaptation solutions identified by the participants themselves, in accordance with the established eligibility criteria for community-driven subprojects. Community facilitators from the CCLC, recruited under Activity 1.2.3, will provide ongoing technical mentoring and support to each sub-project leader, from the initial idea stage to the full development of the sub-project document. As part of this activity, capacity-building sessions dedicated to the principles of LLA, identifying and

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prioritizing subproject ideas, and designing and structuring community-based adaptation initiatives will be organized.

- ***Activity 1.1.4:*** *Strengthening the management and monitoring capacities of LLA adaptation sub-projects for the benefit of their beneficiaries.*

After selecting the adaptation subprojects, this activity will be carried out to enhance the beneficiaries' ability to manage, implement, and monitor their initiatives effectively. It will equip community members with practical tools and guidance on project management, financial accountability, and participatory monitoring. This approach will promote transparency, local ownership, and the successful delivery of LLA initiatives.

Outcome 1.2: Strengthened capacities of the CCLC and local institutions to identify, support, and monitor LLA subprojects that restore ecosystems and promote climate-resilient agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chains through inclusive and sustainable local governance.

The Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) will establish and implement inclusive and transparent mechanisms for identifying, selecting, implementing, and monitoring grant-funded Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) subprojects. Enhancing the institutional capacities of the CCLC and local structures through targeted training, technical mentorship, and knowledge transfer will enable decentralized, community-led decision-making and ensure that adaptation actions address locally identified priorities. It will also promote accountable and participatory governance, facilitate coordination between local and national levels, and empower communities and local institutions to manage adaptation initiatives effectively. Additionally, it will improve the CCLC's ability to mobilize additional resources, support ongoing learning and adaptive management, and sustain locally led resilience-building efforts over time.

Output 1.2: A capacity needs assessment report for the CCLC and local institutions produced; a structured training plan developed; institutional capacity-building workshops conducted; and 25 facilitators recruited and trained to support the identification, development, and monitoring of LLA subprojects.

- ***Activity 1.2.1****: Capacity needs assessment of the CCLC and local institutions for the selection and implementation of LLA subprojects.*

A capacity needs assessment will be conducted for the CCLC and its local partner institutions involved in ecosystem restoration and the development of climate-resilient agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chains. Through consultations with CCLC technical staff, local elected officials, and local partner organizations, the assessment will identify key capacity gaps related to the identification, selection, implementation, and monitoring of LLA subprojects. Special focus will be placed on strengthening capacities in environmental and social risk management and gender-sensitive adaptation planning. The main deliverable of this activity will be a comprehensive capacity needs assessment report to guide the development of targeted capacity-building initiatives under Activity 1.2.2. This activity will be carried out in close coordination with Activity 1.1.1.

- ***Activity 1.2.2:*** *Enhancing the capacity of the CCLC and local institutions based on needs identified in Activity 1.2.1 and tailored to the specific requirements of LLA initiatives.*

This activity will enhance the institutional, technical, and operational capacities of the CCLC and its local partner institutions, enabling them to design, support, select, implement, and monitor LLA initiatives effectively. Building on the capacity needs identified in Activity 1.2.1, this activity will provide the CCLC and local partners with context-specific tools, practical guidance, and shared operational frameworks. These will ensure the quality, coherence, and sustainability of LLA subprojects while aligning with national adaptation priorities and the requirements of development partners. Targeted training sessions on the principles and operational modalities of LLA, the preparation and management of LLA subprojects, and monitoring, evaluation, learning, and accountability mechanisms will be conducted in accordance with a dedicated training plan. Additionally, the activity will support the definition of context-appropriate criteria for selecting adaptation subprojects, ensuring they meet the needs and priorities of beneficiary communes.

- ***Activity 1.2.3:*** *Recruitment and training of CCLC facilitators to assist in designing, implementing, and monitoring LLA subprojects at the local level.*

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This activity will establish a decentralized facilitation mechanism within the CCLC by recruiting and training community facilitators to provide close technical support to communities and local proponents of adaptation sub-projects. As key figures in implementing the LLA approach, these facilitators will strengthen connections among communities, local institutions, and the CCLC. This will ensure that adaptation actions are driven by locally identified priorities. They will facilitate the participatory identification of adaptation needs, support the technical and financial preparation of LLA subprojects, and assist communities throughout the implementation, monitoring, and learning processes. They will also ensure that subprojects comply with eligibility criteria, environmental and social safeguards, and principles of gender equality and social inclusion. The facilitators will undergo training according to the capacity-building plan developed under Activity 1.2.2, building on the knowledge transfer initiated during Activity 1.1.3, and will provide ongoing mentoring and operational coaching to subproject proponents. Twenty-five (25) facilitators will be recruited in total (five (05) per commune) to ensure continuous local support and the effective implementation of community-driven adaptation initiatives.

Component 2: Selection, financing, and implementation of concrete Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) initiatives

Component 2 aims to enhance the climate resilience of communities across the five communes of the CCLC by supporting ecosystem restoration and developing climate-resilient agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chains through LLA initiatives. It will implement community-driven adaptation efforts by funding and executing locally identified sub-projects that improve climate-resilient livelihoods while restoring and protecting essential ecosystems and services. By enhancing rural livelihoods and rehabilitating degraded ecological infrastructure, the component will lessen the vulnerability of both communities and ecosystems to climate change. Interventions will focus on nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation solutions that improve the adaptive capacity of local production systems and promote the sustainability of natural resource management.

Consistent with the principles of LLA, subproject design and implementation will leverage local knowledge and participatory decision-making processes while prioritizing the needs and leadership of vulnerable groups, including women, young people, and people with disabilities. This approach will ensure that adaptation actions are tailored to the context, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

The identification and selection of subprojects will be guided by climate projections, ecosystem assessments, analyses of agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chains, and socio-economic indicators of climate vulnerability. Proposed initiatives will also align with the priority adaptation actions identified through stakeholder consultations and detailed in Annex 3. These initiatives will then be validated through participatory mapping conducted under Activity 1.1.1. Adaptation subprojects will be funded through a locally managed grant mechanism, with each subproject receiving up to USD 72,000 and a total allocation of USD 2,880,000 dedicated to supporting community-driven initiatives. To ensure accountability, learning, and adaptive management, the subprojects will be implemented in phases, with funds disbursed in tranches linked to performance milestones. This approach will facilitate effective monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge sharing throughout the implementation process.

Outcome 2.1: AF resources are mobilized through the FNEC to the CCLC to benefit of vulnerable communities through ecosystem restoration and agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chain development

The objective of this outcome is to establish a decentralized, transparent process for selecting Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) subprojects, as well as a secure system for allocating Adaptation Fund (AF) resources to the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) through the Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat (FNEC).

The selection process will be based on a call for proposals organized at the local level by the CCLC and overseen by the FNEC, the AF's Accredited Entity. It will ensure inclusive access to financing by encouraging the participation of community organizations, women, youth, and persons with disabilities while ensuring compliance with the AF's fiduciary, environmental, and social standards. The CCLC will have final decision-making authority over subproject selection, ensuring enhanced ownership at the

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municipal level, effective community representation, and adherence to locally led adaptation principles.

Targeted capacity-building activities (activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2) will be implemented prior to the selection process to enable the CCLC to fully exercise its decision-making role, thereby ensuring a rigorous and credible selection process in line with Locally Led Adaptation principles.

Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC): CCLC is an Intermunicipal Public Cooperation Authority (EPCI) comprising the Communes of Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, Kpomassè, Comé, and Grand-Popo. The CCLC was established by Decree No. 2016-388 on June 30, 2016. This decree approved the creation of the CCLC, in compliance with the legal requirements of Law No. 2009-17 on inter-municipal cooperation in the Republic of Benin. This law was updated by Code No. 2021-14 on December 20, 2021, which established the Territorial Administration Code in the Republic of Benin. The CCLC was also reinforced by Decree No. 2012-308 of August 28, 2012, which established the rules for the creation, organization, and management of Intermunicipal Public Cooperation Authorities (EPCIs). The CCLC has legal personality and financial autonomy. Its mandate is to promote the coordinated and sustainable management of natural resources, particularly lagoon and coastal ecosystems. It also coordinates intermunicipal actions in environmental protection, flood prevention, territorial planning, and sustainable development. The CCLC plays an essential role in territorial governance and the implementation of local climate resilience initiatives for the benefit of riparian communities.

Output 2.1: 01 revised procedures manual; 01 signed agreement between the FNEC and the CCLC; 01 fund transfer equivalent to the planned annual amount is implemented

- ***Activity 2.1.1:*** *Revision of the procedures manual.*

A procedures manual will be developed during the full proposal stage and attached to it. The manual will clearly and consistently define all procedures related to identifying, selecting, financing, implementing, and monitoring LLA subprojects. Specifically, it will outline technical guidelines, environmental and social safeguards, financial and accounting management systems, procedures for call-for-proposals, and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms. Activity 2.1.1 aims to revise this manual. This revision is necessary to incorporate lessons learned and adjustments resulting from Component 1 activities, especially those related to governance, institutional capacity, and fiduciary management. The revision will facilitate updating and harmonizing procedures for identifying, selecting, financing, implementing, and monitoring LLA subprojects, while aligning with the Adaptation Fund's requirements. The objective is to establish a clear, locally adapted operational framework that promotes transparent, effective, and inclusive implementation of locally led adaptation projects.

- ***Activity 2.1.2:*** *Signing of an agreement between the FNEC and the* CCLC.

Activity 2.1.2 aims to formalize the collaboration framework between the FNEC, the Accredited Entity of the Adaptation Fund (AF), and the CCLC through the signing of an agreement. The agreement will define each party's roles and responsibilities, as well as the mechanisms for securing, transferring, and managing AF resources at the local level. It will ensure compliance with the Adaptation Fund's fiduciary, environmental, and social requirements. Additionally, it will enable the CCLC to lead the financing of subprojects transparently, inclusively, and effectively for the benefit of vulnerable communities.

- ***Activity 2.1.3:*** *Establishment of secure mechanisms for managing and transferring AF resources to the CCLC.*

In accordance with the signed agreement (Activity 2.1.2), this activity aims to establish a robust, secure, transparent, and compliant fiduciary mechanism in line with the Adaptation Fund requirements. This will ensure the careful management and effective transfer of financial resources to the CCLC. The mechanism will also ensure compliance with the Adaptation Fund's standards for traceability, accountability, and financial control. Implementing this mechanism will reduce fiduciary risks, secure financial flows, strengthen stakeholder confidence, and promote the efficient use of resources, directly benefiting vulnerable communities in line with LLA principles.

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Outcome 2.2: The resilience of the livelihoods of vulnerable actors in ecosystems restoration and the development of crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains is strengthened through the implementation of LLA initiatives funded by the Adaptation Fund

The main thematic areas of the eligibility menu (see Annex 3) will achieve this outcome by addressing the vulnerability of CCLC local communities to climate change and their reliance on ecological infrastructure and livelihoods. Activities in sub-project priority areas related to developing crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains aim to strengthen the resilience of climate-sensitive income-generating activities and related assets that face direct or indirect climate change risks. In the main subproject area focused on ecosystem restoration, the project will support interventions in the vulnerable ecological zones of beneficiary communes. These efforts will help reduce or prevent the impacts of climate change on communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods by promoting healthy, functioning ecosystems.

Output 2.2: 40 local climate change adaptation initiatives are selected, 01 annual evaluation report

- ***Activity 2.2.1:*** *Screening and selection of adaptation sub-projects for financing.*

This activity will establish a transparent, rigorous, and inclusive process for reviewing and selecting Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) subprojects. The objective is to ensure that the Adaptation Fund's resources are allocated to relevant, technically sound initiatives that align with local and national priorities. The CCLC will lead the selection process with technical support from local structures and under the supervision of the FNEC. Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria established in Activity 1.2.2, focusing on climate relevance, technical and financial feasibility, expected impacts, gender integration, social inclusion, and compliance with the Adaptation Fund's environmental, social, and fiduciary standards.

- ***Activity 2.2.2:*** *Implementation of LLA sub-projects.*

This activity will enable community organizations, especially women's groups, youth groups, and persons with disabilities, to implement LLA sub-projects. All interventions must meet the eligibility criteria established during Activity 1.1.1. The FNEC will verify that the selected initiatives comply fully with the eligibility criteria and do not include any ineligible activities. Then, the FNEC will approve the final list of funded subprojects. The project will notably support ecosystem restoration efforts and the sustainable development of crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains. The CCLC will make the final decision on grant allocation. The total funding for beneficiaries is estimated at USD 2,880,000. Each year, 2 sub-projects will be selected in each of the 5 municipalities, for a total of 10 annually, with a maximum of USD 72,000 per sub-project.

- ***Activity 2.2.3:*** *Annual performance evaluations (APE) of the LLA beneficiaries' initiative and the CCLC*

The objective of this activity is to establish a structured annual evaluation system to assess the performance of beneficiaries of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) initiatives and the CCLC's leadership and support role. Annual Performance Evaluations (APEs) enable a systematic assessment of sub-project implementation quality, achievement of expected results, efficient use of financial resources, and compliance with the Adaptation Fund's environmental, social, and fiduciary standards. APEs also aim to provide an overview of capacity gaps in the CCLC and local partner structures, with the goal of addressing them through capacity-building (Component 1). APEs are an essential accountability, learning, and continuous-improvement tool in line with LLA principles. The results of APEs will inform decision-making, intervention adjustments, potential subsequent disbursements, and the identification of best practices. APEs will be conducted by external, independent consultants under the supervision of the FNEC.

Component 3: Sustainability of project outcomes, Knowledge Management, and Learning

Component 3 focuses on producing, structuring, and sharing knowledge related to implementing LLA subprojects. The objective is to ensure the sustainability of project achievements, scale up lessons learned from projects and technical advancements, and strengthen the adaptive capacity of all vulnerable

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populations in the beneficiary communes. This will contribute to national efforts to adapt to climate change. Therefore, this component will create a structured knowledge management and applied learning system. This system will encourage the adoption and replication of climate-smart practices developed and implemented by community organizations, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, thereby strengthening their long-term ownership.

This component is crucial for maintaining important successes in managing the effects of climate change. From this perspective, creating and implementing a mechanism to mobilize sustainable financing is essential to engage the private sector in climate change adaptation investments.

Outcome 3.1: Local governance of LLA initiatives is sustainably reinforced, and effective mechanisms for mobilizing additional resources are established to ensure sustainability and scale-up of project achievements

This outcome aims to transform the governance, financing, and leadership of climate change adaptation at the CCLC level. This transformation will be based on establishing a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system, which will serve as the central management tool. The MEAL system will strengthen accountability to communities by providing grievance mechanisms and ensuring compliance with Adaptation Fund monitoring and reporting requirements. It will also enable continuous learning and the capitalization of local innovations to enhance adaptive management and support scaling up the best practices resulting from the implementation of LLA initiatives. Monitoring will focus on the progress and implementation of funded subprojects, as well as environmental and social risks, compliance with safeguard measures, gender equality actions, and feedback from local communities from selection through implementation for each subproject. Additionally, the outcome aims to establish mechanisms for mobilizing additional resources to ensure the sustainability and scaling up of project achievements beyond its duration.

Output 3.1: 01 participatory and inclusive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system is established; 01 sustainable financing mobilization mechanism is available

- ***Activity 3.1.1:*** *Establishment of a participatory and inclusive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) System based on SMART indicators disaggregated to ensure accountability and measure actual impacts of LLA Initiatives.*

The aim of this activity is to establish a participatory and inclusive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system that guides LLA initiatives at the CCLC level. Using SMART indicators disaggregated by sex, age, and vulnerability category, the system will measure the actual impact of actions and enhance social accountability and transparency in resource allocation. The MEAL system will actively involve local actors in monitoring and evaluation while incorporating feedback mechanisms and grievance management. It will support continuous learning and adaptive management, building on lessons learned to improve and replicate adaptation initiatives. The CCLC will implement the MEAL system, having strengthened its capacities during Activity 1.2.2. Participatory monitoring will be institutionalized through periodic progress reports drafted by facilitators recruited under Activity 1.2.3 and validated by the CCLC board. Community feedback will be continuously gathered through the public posting of sub-project selection results and meeting minutes on the progress of their implementation in each beneficiary municipality. Communication channels will allow beneficiaries to voice concerns throughout the implementation of LLA initiatives. Information collected during Activity 3.1.1 will inform the annual performance evaluations (APEs) of LLA initiative beneficiaries and the CCLC (Activity 2.2.3).

- ***Activity 3.1.2:*** *Establishment of a sustainable financing mobilization mechanism, including the Identification of innovative financing sources and strengthening of strategic partnerships among value chain actors in the crop, livestock, and fisheries sectors.*

Activity 3.1.2 aims to create a structured system for mobilizing sustainable financing to support the sustainability and scaling up of LLA initiatives within the CCLC. This system will be based on the 25 facilitators hired under Activity 1.2.3. These facilitators serve as municipal facilitators and project engineers. As outlined in Activity 1.2.3, they will assist the CCLC and community organizations in

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developing financially viable adaptation projects, among other duties. They will also help identify innovative and diverse funding sources, including concrete financing instruments that are already available, such as FNEC's national financing window, the *Fonds d'Appui au Développement des Communes (FADeC)*, the Green Climate Fund through FNEC's accreditation and the LoCAL facility (SAP032), and the blended-finance window of WACA+, alongside foundations, decentralized cooperation, and the private sector, and build strategic partnerships within crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains. By enhancing the technical, financial, and institutional quality of proposals, this activity will promote sustainable financial flows beyond the project's funding cycle.

Outcome 3.2: Knowledge management is strengthened, and lessons learned, as well as best practices for adaptation are documented, capitalized, and inclusively disseminated to promote learning, replication, and scaling up of climate change adaptation actions

Outcome 3.2 supports the structural and sustainable strengthening of knowledge management that arises from LLA initiatives. Converting successful local experiences into catalysts for collective learning and broader application is crucial. This outcome relies on a systematic approach to documenting, leveraging, and sharing lessons learned. This approach helps shift from isolated project approaches to adaptable solutions that suit local contexts. By creating structured knowledge products like case studies, simplified technical guides, and multimedia materials, this outcome will showcase best practices for adaptation while highlighting the transformative roles of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Multilingual dissemination and accessible channels (local languages, community radio, digital tools, Braille, etc.) will promote inclusive knowledge sharing among all stakeholders. Additionally, hosting learning platforms, exchange visits, and capitalization workshops will encourage dialogue among communities, local authorities, technical services, and researchers. These forums will facilitate the evaluation of the potential to replicate and scale proven solutions. Ultimately, this will help ensure that LLA practices are firmly established and widely shared at municipal, national, and regional levels.

Output 3.2: 01 toolkit synthesizing the best practices and successes of the funded initiatives is available; 05 exchange visits are conducted; 05 experience-sharing workshops are organized; the FNEC website disseminates practices and lessons learned from the project; 02 information dissemination systems on adaptation measures are strengthened

- ***Activity 3.2.1:*** *Development of a toolkit synthesizing best practices and successes of funded initiatives.*

Activity 3.2.1 is the core element of the project's capitalization strategy. Its goal is to turn the results of funded LLA initiatives into operational knowledge products that support the replication and scaling up of climate change adaptation solutions at local and regional levels. This activity relies on systematically documenting evidence through case studies and stories of change that highlight technical achievements and social transformations, especially the empowering roles of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. It will also combine local knowledge with scientific knowledge to enhance community ownership of solutions. Lessons learned will be transformed into inclusive, accessible multimedia materials, such as case studies, simplified technical guides, and multimedia content, available in French, local languages, and sign languages. This approach ensures fair distribution of best practices and encourages their adoption by various stakeholders, helping to embed and expand these LLA initiatives over the long term.

- ***Activity 3.2.2:*** *Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned at the regional and national levels through exchange visits and experience-sharing workshops, and their integration on the digital platforms.*

Activity 3.2.2 marks the dissemination and outreach phase of this project. It aims to transform capitalized knowledge into catalysts for replication and change at the local, national, and regional levels. Using a combination of direct exchanges and digital tools, it will promote peer learning, influence practices, and support the integration of adaptation solutions into public policies. Through inter-municipal exchange visits, beneficiaries and institutional actors will have the opportunity to observe successful LLA initiatives firsthand and adopt the implemented solutions. These visits will be complemented by capitalization and

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experience-sharing workshops that bring together local authorities, technical services, NGOs, and decision-makers to share lessons learned and evaluate scaling potential. In parallel, a digital platform dedicated to the CCLC will be developed to centralize and disseminate best practices, knowledge products, and project monitoring data. This platform will be interoperable with the FNEC website to ensure continued access to knowledge and to strengthen the outreach of local experiences at the national and regional levels.

The Theory of Change diagram (**Figure *11***) below outlines the project's transformational goal and explains the intervention logic used. The diagram shows the causal links and pathways connecting activities to outputs and expected results. It also includes key assumptions, constraints, and risks that might affect project implementation. The project aims to create a major shift by evolving the CCLC from isolated climate actions to a structured, territorial model of local, sustainable, and replicable adaptation. It will change practices by establishing a full intervention chain, involving participatory identification and planning of sub-projects based on an eligibility menu, along with implementation by community organizations, especially those involving women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The project will also incorporate monitoring and ongoing adjustments, so communities become drivers of resilience rather than just beneficiaries. Institutionally, the CCLC will improve its operational capacity by hiring 25 community facilitators and implementing a participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system with disaggregated SMART indicators, grievance mechanisms, and reporting mechanisms. This will strengthen accountability to communities, transparency, and the quality of implementation in line with climate fund standards. Finally, the project will help the CCLC shift its development path by creating mechanisms to attract additional funding through bankable projects and value chain partnerships, as well as inclusive knowledge management using toolkits, digital platforms, and local and sign languages. This will support the sustainability and expansion of adaptation solutions beyond the Adaptation Fund's scope.

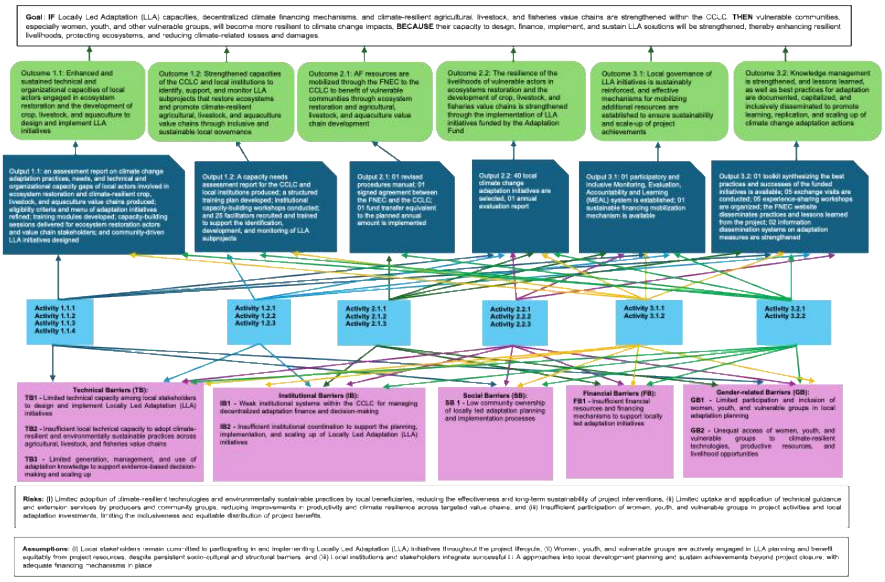


Figure 11: Theory of Change

B – Economic, social, and environmental benefits

Describe how the project / programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project / programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. In particular, specify how the project/programme is addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups.

From an economic point of view: The climatic phenomena described above cause the degradation of

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agricultural land, coastal erosion, salinization of soils and fresh water, as well as a general deterioration of living conditions. Livelihoods, particularly agriculture, fishing, and livestock farming (pillars of the local economy), are severely disrupted, exacerbating food insecurity and household vulnerability. Natural resources and essential infrastructure, such as food crops, fisheries, biodiversity, housing, roads, and basic social services, are also severely affected. In this context, adaptation becomes a structural necessity to ensure the survival of local socio-economic systems and preserve the ecological functions of the territory. Indeed, the evaluation of the economic impacts of climate-resilient livelihood strategies has shown that the Communes that have adopted them have benefited from abandoning traditional practices in a context of climate change and environmental degradation. The economic benefits vary depending on the type of climate-resilient practice.

In 2019, floods alone caused nearly 53 billion FCFA in damage to the Beninese economy, severely affecting the agricultural, real estate, education, and health sectors[23]. These floods are also accompanied by a progressive saline intrusion that degrades agricultural land and contaminates freshwater sources, thereby compromising agricultural production and access to potable water in these coastal areas. If these impacts are not contained, they could reach up to 3% of the national GDP each year. Conversely, international examples show that one franc invested in adaptation can generate up to five francs in avoided benefits. According to the World Bank and the IMF, every dollar spent on climate adaptation can generate public savings representing between 2.3% and 4.6% of annual GDP by 2100.

The implementation of the climate resilience project in the CCLC communes thus represents an essential economic and strategic lever to mitigate these growing losses and build a sustainable development trajectory. The project will equip the municipalities with resilient infrastructure and drainage systems, while also strengthening food security, rural incomes, and regional economic growth. Ultimately, this investment will help preserve employment, stabilize household incomes, attract private investment, and limit economic losses, which, without action, could reach 19% of the national GDP by 2050. It will also strengthen the country's macroeconomic resilience by reducing dependence on emergency aid mechanisms, while consolidating fiscal sustainability and social cohesion at the territorial level. Indeed, dependence on emergency aid mechanisms poses a major challenge in terms of economic and institutional viability. Although necessary, these post-disaster interventions are costly, unpredictable, and mobilize budgetary resources that could be allocated to development. They also create structural vulnerability by encouraging communities to adopt a reactive rather than a preventive approach. The project, by investing in resilient infrastructure and local prevention capacities, will significantly reduce the need for such emergency aid. This preventive approach promotes the strengthening of local capacities and community ownership of solutions, thereby ensuring long-term resilience rather than cyclical dependence on external assistance.

Strengthening and structuring climate-resilient crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains will enhance the adaptive capacity of economic actors across the production, processing, and marketing cycle. Targeted training and improved, low-carbon post-harvest handling and storage practices (Appendix 3.1) will help reduce post-harvest losses, extend periods of economic activity, and diversify household income sources. This dynamism will directly benefit small businesses, particularly those owned by women, by providing them with a more regular supply and better sales planning. Moreover, the increased stability of agricultural and fisheries incomes will promote local investment, the creation of decent jobs, and the development of new rural markets. By supporting the structuring of value chains and the sustainable enhancement of resources, the project will thus help transform local economies into hubs of resilience and sustainable economic opportunities. At the territorial level, this economic dynamic will promote inclusive growth, supported by a diversified productive base that is less vulnerable to climate shocks. It will also facilitate the mobilization of additional public and private financing, further justifying the Adaptation Fund's commitment to integrated approaches focused on climate and socio-economic returns on investment.

From a social perspective: this project will generate significant social benefits by strengthening community cohesion, reducing social inequalities, and improving the living conditions of vulnerable groups. By prioritizing women, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities, the project adopts an inclusive

[23] *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2019-2030)*

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approach that ensures an equitable distribution of benefits. Increased access to resilient technologies, sustainable energy, and training allows these groups to better cope with climate hazards while improving their economic autonomy and social participation. It will also help reduce male economic migration, an increasingly marked phenomenon in coastal areas where growing land infertility due to saline intrusion and the depletion of lagoon resources force men to leave their homes to find income elsewhere. This forced mobility weakens family cohesion, overburdens women with domestic and productive responsibilities, and deprives children of paternal presence. By restoring soil fertility, securing fishing activities, and diversifying local economic opportunities, the project will enable men to maintain viable, productive activities alongside their families, thereby strengthening household stability and the balanced distribution of family roles. Securing vegetable, fishing, and processing activities (often carried out by women) directly contributes to household income stability, poverty reduction, and improved food security. Moreover, reducing flood-related risks reduces forced displacements, housing losses, and school interruptions, thereby preserving the local social fabric.

The project further strengthens human capital through continuous training of local stakeholders in adaptation practices, sustainable natural resource management, and green entrepreneurship. By integrating them into risk management committees and ecological restoration activities (mangroves, watersheds, community forests), the project promotes their civic engagement and professional integration. These social dynamics are strengthened by the creation of local green jobs, producer networking, and improvements in participatory governance. In the long term, the project will help strengthen intergenerational solidarity, reduce tensions related to access to resources, and promote a fairer development model, where populations are both beneficiaries and actors in the resilience of their territory.

- **Gender evaluation**

The gender assessment and action plan are part of Benin's national policies on gender equality and climate change challenges, including the National Gender Promotion Policy (PNPG) and Benin's Action Plan for Gender and Climate Change (PAGCCB) covering the period 2023-2025. Women make up 50.21% of Benin's population, the majority of whom are active in agriculture (54.8%), while 17.24% are children under the age of five. Furthermore, young people (aged 15-35) represent around 35% of the population, with a particularly high unemployment rate among young rural women. People with disabilities, estimated at around 1.6% of the population according to the RGPH4, face multidimensional exclusion that exacerbates their vulnerability to climate shocks. Women play a leading role in managing subsistence farming activities, collecting water, and administering domestic resources, which increases their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change such as droughts and floods. These risks are exacerbated by their limited access to productive tools and adaptation mechanisms. The floods in 2019 destroyed 4,899.1 hectares of crops, with particularly severe consequences for women farmers, who are responsible for 70% of food production. At the same time, rural poverty, which affects 40.6% of the population, has a greater impact on female heads of household, young people without qualifications, and people with disabilities, who lack the means to cope with the adverse effects of climate change. Despite national initiatives to establish gender equality, women, young people, and people with disabilities remain largely marginalized in local decision-making bodies, where their participation remains virtually non-existent. This exclusion is mainly due to deeply entrenched sociocultural and religious norms, which confine them to domestic roles and hinder their political and economic advancement. In 2024-2025, progress has been noted at the national level, but discrimination persists, with 76% of Beninese people believing that violence against women and girls is not common in their community, while initiatives such as UN Resolution 1325 and empowerment programs aim to strengthen their leadership. However, the near-total invisibility of people with disabilities in local public policies remains a major challenge. This project aims to integrate gender considerations to ensure that marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly women and people with disabilities, have better access to reliable climate information. This will help them to better manage risks, while promoting their economic autonomy. The ultimate goal is to contribute to more inclusive and sustainable development that benefits all communities.

The municipalities of the CCLC involved in this program, notably Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, Kpomassè, Comé, and Grand-Popo, are distinguished by specific socioeconomic characteristics. Consultations with stakeholders and an assessment based on municipal development plans have highlighted socio-cultural

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and religious barriers that significantly limit the role of women. These constraints confine them to the domestic sphere and perpetuate their subordination to men, resulting in the virtual absence of women in local decision-making bodies.

- **Abomey-Calavi**

The municipality of Abomey-Calavi is experiencing sustained population growth, reaching 1,253,000 inhabitants in 2023, representing an increase of 5.38% over the previous year[24]. In 2022, the composition of the population revealed near gender parity, with women constituting 50.7% of the total. Despite their notable presence in senior administrative positions (categories A to C), women remain significantly underrepresented in decision-making roles, occupying only 10% of seats on the municipal council. Economically, women dominate the informal sector, often taking on tasks that are less valued by men. To support their economic empowerment, municipal microcredit programs target vulnerable groups and small-scale income-generating activities. However, gender-based violence remains a widespread problem, taking various forms: physical, sexual, economic, psychological, or related to property and assets. Young girls are particularly vulnerable to risks such as early or forced marriage and sexual assault, including rape of minors. In April 2023, of the 916 cases of violence handled, 82.6% involved women, with all cases of sexual violence directed against them[25].

- **Ouidah**

Women represent 51.5% of the population in Ouidah. However, only one woman among the 77 elected representatives sits on the municipal council, reflecting a widespread reluctance among women to take on positions of responsibility. The municipality faces many challenges, including underfunded social services, persistent gender-based violence, child abuse, and the exclusion of people with disabilities. In 2023, 165 cases of abuse, violence, and exploitation affecting vulnerable populations were reported. Youth unemployment remains a major problem, exacerbated by a lack of training, financial support, and gaps in public policy. Faced with these challenges, the municipality is working to encourage the participation of women and young people in local governance, while supporting women's income-generating groups through awareness campaigns and targeted technical assistance.

This initial assessment of the situation of women and girls is based on a documentary analysis of the municipal development plans of the 12 municipalities concerned, supplemented by data from the DHS and MICS surveys conducted in Benin, as well as consultations with stakeholders. It paints an alarming picture: in all the municipalities studied, different categories of marginalized and vulnerable people face increased risks due to social, economic, and structural inequalities. These include children under the age of five, orphans, and young people exposed to illegal work, child trafficking, early or forced marriage, and life on the streets. Women and girls also face significant threats, such as gender-based violence, early pregnancy, and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation.

Older people, especially those living in rural areas or involved in the informal sector without a social safety net, often face exclusion and poverty. People with disabilities, whether physical, intellectual, or mental, are frequently marginalized due to limited access to adapted infrastructure, medical care, education, or employment. People with disabilities remain invisible in municipal policies. Other vulnerable populations include those deprived of access to communication tools, victims of natural disasters, or those living in extreme poverty. Many of them are illiterate and have limited access to climate information, economic opportunities, emergency aid, and adequate social services.

- **Kpomassè**

Gender parity remains low in the municipality of Kpomassè, where women are significantly underrepresented in governance bodies: no women are members of the municipal council, and municipal services employ only two women out of a total of 12 employees. This situation is marked by several structural weaknesses, such as the weight of tradition, low levels of education among women, and a lack of solidarity among them, thus limiting their involvement in civic life. In the agricultural sector, women make up 17.5% of the working population (1,013 out of 5,778 workers according to 2013 figures), making an

[24] Abomey-Calavi Town Hall (2023). Municipal Development Plan 2023-2027 – PDC4. CREDD-Benin Sarl.
[25] Abomey-Calavi Town Hall (2023). Municipal Development Plan 2023-2027 – PDC4. CREDD-Benin Sarl.

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essential contribution to market gardening and product processing. However, their access to fertile land and agricultural inputs is limited, which accentuates their economic marginalization. In the field of education, the imbalance is also striking. The number of female teachers remains low and the school dropout rate for girls, estimated at 22.33% between 2012 and 2016, is mainly attributed to socio-cultural and economic constraints. The Communal Development Plan (PDC) highlights gender-based violence as an alarming problem. Similarly, the situation of young people in the commune is particularly worrying, with a massive rural exodus to Cotonou and urban areas due to the lack of local economic opportunities and the degradation of lagoon and agricultural resources. Young farmers, deprived of access to land and inputs, are struggling to modernize their practices and adapt to climate change. People with disabilities suffer from systematic exclusion: lack of adapted infrastructure, no representation in municipal services (0 out of 12 employees), and marginalization in socio-economic development programs. Their vulnerability is exacerbated by the lack of specialized services (orthopedics, rehabilitation) and by cultural barriers that confine them to social invisibility.

- **Comè**

Women and girls continue to be perceived as marginalized in gender relations, despite development efforts whose impact on gender dynamics remains largely invisible. Their role remains largely confined to subordinate domestic and socio-economic spheres, particularly through household tasks that reduce their availability for public activities. Gender-based violence also persists. At the same time, control over income remains largely in the hands of men. Women's participation in local governance bodies is extremely low: there are no women among the 15 members of the municipal council, only two out of 12 in the town hall services, and none among the 12 in the decentralized state services[26]. Their access to productive resources, particularly fertile land, is also limited, which intensifies their economic marginalization. In secondary education, women represent barely 11.5% of the teaching staff, with only 106 female teachers out of a total of 921. The low literacy rate among women contributes to a widespread lack of interest in this sector, exacerbated by an average school dropout rate of 22.33% between 2012 and 2016. To remedy this situation, the Beninese government has committed to promoting women's education within the framework of the PRSP. Furthermore, gender-based violence remains a worrying factor in this marginalization. In 2016, the NGO CERADID recorded 189 cases of women and girls who were victims and received medical, food, and legal assistance. The roots of this violence include women's low level of education, the weight of sociocultural traditions, and a lack of self-confidence and solidarity among women. Young people in the municipality, faced with high unemployment and the depletion of fishery resources (lagoon), are forced to migrate seasonally or permanently, thereby weakening the local social and economic fabric[27]. People with disabilities are virtually absent from municipal statistics and programs. This invisibility reflects deep marginalization, fueled by stigma, inaccessible infrastructure, and a lack of inclusive policies. In the face of recurring floods, these individuals are the group most at risk due to their reduced mobility.

- **Grand-Popo**

Gender-related challenges in the municipality of Grand-Popo are manifested in the persistent marginalization of women and girls despite their key economic role. Women dominate trade (60% of traders) and fish processing (100% of fishmongers), but their access to land, inheritance, and decision-making bodies remains limited by customary traditions. Gender parity is low, with only 13.7% of women participating in public consultations and 12.56% of those affected by projects, reflecting their underrepresentation in governance structures[28]. Girls have equal access to primary education, but their secondary school enrollment rate drops to 83.41% compared to 96.07% for boys, due to family preferences in rural areas. Women's vulnerability is accentuated, representing 80.49% of vulnerable cases (33 out of 41), particularly widows and the elderly, with increased risks of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation linked to the influx of workers[29]. Weaknesses such as male domination have been identified in the municipality, as well as opportunities through projects such as WACA, which aims for 60%

[26] Comè town hall. (2017). Comè municipal development plan (2018-2022): Final version.

[27] Comè town hall. (2017). Comè municipal development plan (2018-2022): Final version.

[28] Grand-Popo Town Hall (2018). Grand-Popo Municipal Development Plan (PDC 3) (2019-2023)

[29] Grand-Popo Town Hall (2018). Grand-Popo Municipal Development Plan (PDC 3) (2019-2023)

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inclusion of women, and the 2025 ANCB workshop on gender equality. However, climate change and cultural constraints remain major threats, requiring increased mobilization to promote gender parity and reduce the marginalization of women and girls in the municipality of Grand-Popo. The situation of young people in the municipality is marked by endemic unemployment, particularly among young women, and dependence on precarious economic activities (artisanal fishing, informal trade) that are heavily impacted by coastal erosion and the degradation of marine resources. Their exclusion from decision-making bodies limits their ability to influence local development policies. People with disabilities, although not quantified in municipal statistics, are among the most vulnerable to coastal risks and flooding. The inaccessibility of public infrastructure, the lack of specialized services, and social stigma place them in a situation of extreme exclusion, exacerbated by their total absence from climate resilience programs.

From an environmental perspective: the project will promote sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources by integrating agroecological practices, integrated water management, and effective early warning systems tailored to local conditions. These measures will limit soil degradation, restore degraded ecosystems (wetlands, mangroves, agricultural land), and enhance natural regeneration. The project will also pay particular attention to the protection and enhancement of protected areas in the coastal zone, including Ramsar sites, biosphere reserves, and wetlands of ecological importance. The restoration of coastal and lagoon ecosystems, combined with improved management of these areas, will create an environment conducive to the development of sustainable and responsible ecotourism. This emerging sector will offer new economic opportunities to local communities through biodiversity observation, community-based tourism, and the promotion of cultural and natural heritage, while generating additional income that will reduce pressure on natural resources. The preservation of these areas will also contribute to the maintenance of essential ecosystem services (fish nurseries, hydrological regulation, carbon sequestration), on which local productive activities depend. Women, who are often at the forefront of managing domestic resources, will see their workload reduced thanks to improved availability and accessibility of essential resources such as water and wood, while also being integrated into local environmental governance. Men, as major players in fishing, agriculture, and livestock farming, will benefit from sustainable practices that will ensure the long-term productivity of their activities while preserving ecosystems. Young people, trained in climate issues and green innovation, will become agents of change by engaging in initiatives such as sustainable agriculture, reforestation, and renewable energy. By promoting the equitable participation of all social groups, the project will help reduce climate vulnerability, ensure shared and efficient management of natural resources, and create a sustainable balance between economic development and environmental conservation. This strengthened ecological framework will also increase the resilience of territories to future shocks and generate medium- and long-term climate co-benefits, contributing to national determined contribution (NDC) targets.

The CCLC area is home to diverse ethnic communities whose livelihoods rely on natural resources sensitive to climate change. These communities include the *Aïzo, Fon, Goun, Nago, Toffin,* and *Yoruba* in Abomey-Calavi; the *Fon* and *Adja* in Ouidah; the *Adja*, *Pédah*, *Fon*, and *Yoruba* in Kpomassè; the *Xwéla*, *Waci*, and *Sawxè* in Comé; and the *Xwla*, *Xwéla*, and *Guens* in Grand-Popo. Groups that depend on lagoons and fishing, such as the *Toffin*, *Pédah*, *Xwla*, and *Xwéla*, are especially vulnerable to coastal erosion, lagoon salinization, and declining fish stocks. In these fishing-dependent communities, women's roles in fish processing and marketing, limited employment opportunities for youth, and social exclusion of persons with disabilities all increase climate vulnerability. These challenges directly threaten their subsistence and contribute to climate-induced migration. These groups often face overlapping systemic inequalities, including limited access to land, resources, and decision-making. These problems are worsened by gender discrimination, age exclusion, and stigma related to disability.

Using the LLA approach, the project will ensure these communities are actively involved in participatory decision-making and have fair access to capacity-building, technical assistance, and sub-project funding. In this regard, Activities 1.1.1 and 2.2.1 will employ participatory methods to identify and select sub-projects that specifically address the vulnerabilities of these ethnic groups and the intersecting inequalities faced by women, youth, and persons with disabilities within these communities. This approach will guarantee their meaningful representation, equal access to financing, and the development of adaptation measures tailored to their unique livelihoods and challenges.

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C – Cost-effectiveness analysis of the project

Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project / programme., focusing on the implementation and execution arrangements, in particular the mechanism which will provide more direct access to finance.

This project was designed with a focus on socio-economic profitability, budget efficiency, and sustainable territorial impact. Given the number of beneficiaries reached, the project's per capita cost remains moderate compared to the expected benefits, indicating a favorable cost-effectiveness ratio. Its cost-effectiveness mainly comes from its LLA implementation and execution arrangements. Instead of creating new structures, the project channels Adaptation Fund resources through the FNEC, the AF's Accredited Entity, to the CCLC. The CCLC then selects and funds community subprojects through a locally managed grant system. This decentralized approach reduces transaction and intermediary costs, shifts decision-making to the most appropriate level, and ensures that resources reach vulnerable communities efficiently and transparently. The project is expected to directly benefit approximately 5,114 people, including members of community organizations, women's groups, youth groups, and groups for people with disabilities involved in funded sub-projects. These direct beneficiaries total about 4,013 people, who will be reached through Component 2. This includes 4,000 beneficiaries from the 40 funded sub-projects, as well as 13 individuals participating in related training activities. An additional 577 people will be reached through Component 1 (capacity-building activities) and 524 through Component 3 (knowledge management and dissemination). It will also indirectly benefit approximately one million people across the five coastal and lagoon communes.

By strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of stakeholders in crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains, the project encourages the development of autonomous, sustainable adaptation initiatives rooted in local realities. These efforts will result in measurable improvements in agricultural and fisheries yields, reduced post-harvest losses, more efficient use of natural resources, and diversified income sources. Multiplier effects, such as maintaining the workforce through improved food and health security and supporting local entrepreneurship (especially among women), will boost the economies of targeted communities. Additionally, by reducing economic losses from flooding, the project will enhance local communities' investment capacity and reduce their reliance on costly, unpredictable emergency funding.

At the same time, the project enhances the capacity of local and decentralized institutions to plan, supervise, and support the development of climate-resilient value chains. This strengthens territorial and sectoral governance of adaptation. Relying on existing institutional structures (FNEC, CCLC, municipal services, and community organizations), along with 25 community facilitators instead of external service providers, helps keep implementation costs low while fostering a lasting local institutional legacy. This integrated approach supports the shift to sustainable and inclusive resource management in line with Benin's National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At the regional level, restoring coastal and lagoon ecosystems and conserving biodiversity will produce broad environmental benefits. Over a 10- to 15-year period, the combined effects of direct economic benefits, public savings from lower post-disaster costs, and positive environmental impacts should yield a cost-benefit ratio of more than 2.5, positioning the project as a strategic, transformative investment that fulfills the Adaptation Fund's criteria.

D –Alignment of the project with national or local sustainable development strategies

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

The *Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (LLA-CCLC)* project is part of an integrated territorial development approach that is fully consistent with national and local strategies to combat climate change in Benin. This program specifically aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable

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communities facing climate hazards in the Coastal Lagoons region.

This initiative is strategically aligned with the various national planning frameworks for climate risk management, environmental adaptation, and community resilience development, making it a key driver of the implementation of Benin's public policies in this area. The table among these policy strategy and action plan documents includes:

Table 3 : Alignment of the project with national or local sustainable development strategies

National strategies/plans/policies	Alignment of the project with the objectives of Benin's framework documents
Le Plan National de Développement (PND 2026-2035)	This project aligns with several objectives and strategic orientations of the National Development Plan (PND 2026-2035), especially *"Strategic Orientation 2: Strengthening the Resilience of the Benin System"* (page 91), which addresses environmental sustainability challenges caused by climate change, ecosystem degradation, and natural resource depletion. The project directly contributes to *Strategic Objective 2.1*, which aims to strengthen the resilience of socio-economic and environmental systems against extreme weather events. This objective target vulnerable coastal populations that are highly exposed to flooding and ecosystem degradation. Furthermore, the project will implement *Strategic Objective 2.2*, focusing on sustainable and resilient natural resource management. Specifically, it will address Axis 2.2.1, which involves the preservation and restoration of biodiversity. This aligns with the CCLC's efforts to conserve lagoon and coastal ecosystems.
Benin's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNA 2022-2030)	Benin's NAP is the country's roadmap for adapting to the effects of climate change. This plan identifies the most vulnerable sectors, including agriculture, water resources, energy, health, tourism, forestry, infrastructure and urban development, and the coastline (page 24, point 3.2.1), and proposes adaptation strategies for each sector (pages 75-94, tables 13 to 21). The project directly targets the populations of coastal lagoons, an area identified by the NAP as one of the most vulnerable to climate change. According to the NAP, this region is highly exposed to coastal erosion, sea level rise, flooding, and land salinization, affecting fishermen, market gardeners, and farmers in particular. Therefore, the NAP specifically aims to "reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of local communities and their livelihoods," as described in the executive summary (page vii). The project is fully in line with this approach by proposing local adaptation measures for vulnerable communities in the area covered by the CCLC. Finally, the PRCC-CCLC is aligned with the three strategic orientations of the NAP, namely sustainable consumption and production patterns, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and the establishment of natural disaster management systems, particularly against coastal erosion and flooding (page 68, Table 11). These orientations are consistent with the concrete actions of the CCLC, such as reforestation of the coastal strip, restoration of mangroves, and protection against saltwater intrusion and loss of agricultural land.
Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change	The project to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in the Community of Coastal Lagoons to climate change is fully aligned with the vision of Benin's Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGCCB) 2023-2025, which aims to "promote the effective integration of gender in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in a manner that is equitable for men, women, and vulnerable people" (pages 16, 43). By targeting the most vulnerable populations in the coastal lagoons, strengthening their adaptive capacities in the priority sectors identified by the national plan, and adopting a decentralized approach in line with the planned institutional framework, the project contributes directly to the operational implementation of the PAGCCB and the strategic objectives of Benin's National Climate Change Management Policy.
Benin's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) under the Paris Agreement	This LLA project aligns with Benin's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), which prioritizes adaptation in the country's coastal areas. NDC 3.0 highlights the coastline as a highly vulnerable zone affected by flooding, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and prolonged droughts. The shoreline is retreating at a rate of 12 to 30 meters per year, impacting about 60% of the population across 30 of the 77 communes, including the coastal areas of Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, and Grand-Popo (pages 16 and 50). In this context, the LLA project, which plans to carry out actions such as restoring coastal ecosystems, building community capacity, and promoting resilient agriculture, is fully aligned with NDC 3.0. These efforts directly support the sectoral adaptation priorities outlined in NDC 3.0. Specifically, the project is integrated into the strategies for the coastal sector, particularly to strengthen the resilience of infrastructure, economic activities, and local populations, and to establish integrated coastal zone management (page 51). Therefore, this LLA project makes a significant contribution to the implementation of national adaptation commitments at the local level.
Strategic Development Plan for the Agricultural Sector (PSDSA): Strategic Guidelines 2025 National Plan for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security (PNIASAN) 2017-2021	The *Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes* project (LLA-CCLC) is aligned with Axis 3 of the National Plan for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutritional Security (PNIASAN), which aims to strengthen the resilience of agricultural populations to the effects of climate change. This strategic axis focuses on promoting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land and aquatic ecosystem management, securing land tenure, and improving food and nutrition security for vulnerable populations (page 35, action 3.1.1). The LLA-CCLC addresses these priorities through clear actions such as restoring coastal ecosystems, developing resilient agriculture, and strengthening the capacities of local communities. In addition, the program aims to promote the adoption of agricultural innovations adapted to changing climatic conditions, such as the identification and selection of the best varieties/species according to agro-ecological zones (actions 3.1.2) and the dissemination and support for the implementation of production systems that limit greenhouse gas emissions and promote organic and ecological agriculture (action 3.1.3) of the PSDSA. This includes the selection of agricultural varieties that are resilient to droughts and floods, the dissemination of low greenhouse gas emission production techniques, and the promotion of ecological and organic agricultural practices. These interventions make the LLA-CCLC an operational tool for implementing the PSDSA/PNIASAN in the municipalities that make up the CCLC, a coastal area.
Government Action Program (GAP 2021-2026)	This CCLC's project is fully in line with the strategic orientations of the Government Action Program (PAG 2021-2026), particularly Pillar 3, which aims to sustainably increase the social well-being of the population, and Strategic Axis 7, which is dedicated to strengthening the balanced and sustainable development of the national territory. The PAG provides for actions to strengthen resilience to climate change, which directly corresponds to the objective of the LLA-CCLC project. The program contributes to the preservation of natural resources and the adaptation of vulnerable populations, in line with the government's priorities. The PAG mentions the need to improve the living environment, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas, and to promote sustainable local development. By targeting coastal lagoons, the LLA-CCLC aligns with this vision by proposing solutions for vulnerable areas. The PAG includes a coastal protection program, which is a key objective of the LLA-CCLC. The two initiatives share a common approach to combating the effects of climate change on coastal areas (pages 53, 56, and 60 of the PAG overview document).
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The *Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes* (LLA-CCLC) project is fully aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 1 (no poverty), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) by strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate impacts in Benin's coastal areas. The program also contributes to protecting ecosystems (SDG 15) and strengthening partnerships (SDG 17), thus creating an integrated framework for action that addresses the environmental, social, and economic challenges facing Benin's coastal communities.

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E – National technical standards and environmental and social policy

Describe how the project / programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund. Also describe, as needed, how the project/programme will provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards

The LLA-CCLC project is fully aligned with the environmental and social policy defined by the Adaptation Fund (AF) and with the environmental and social regulations in force in Benin. A review of national legislation, in particular Framework Law No. 98-030 of February 12, 1999, on the environment, as well as the principles and criteria adopted by the Adaptation Fund, demonstrates perfect consistency between the national categorization and that advocated by the Fund. Feasibility studies and assessments will further this alignment by highlighting the relevant national environmental standards and the compliance modalities of the various projects that will be developed to meet these requirements. These studies will also specify the process for developing an environmental and social management plan in accordance with national standards and the Adaptation Fund's standards in this area. Control mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that projects do not contribute to increased inequalities, have no adverse effects on marginalized populations, and do not harm the environment.

In addition to the framework laws listed in Table 4, the specific activities set out in the eligibility menu (Appendix 3.1) will comply with the relevant national technical standards and codes. Small-scale community infrastructure, including community water points, storage tanks, runoff basins, and nurseries, must comply with the relevant national building and public works standards. Community water points and household water storage facilities must also comply with national drinking water quality standards and Water Law No. 2010-44 of 21 October 2010. Small-scale solar pumping and renewable energy installations will comply with applicable national electrical safety and solar PV installation standards. Pesticide handling, restricted to WHO Class III and below (i.e., excluding WHO hazard classes Ia, Ib, and II, so that only class III and class U products may be financed), under the exclusion list (Appendix 3.2), will comply with Law No. 2022-14 of 9 July 2022 and applicable national requirements. It will also comply with the regional pesticide registration and management framework established under the relevant ECOWAS, WAEMU, and CILSS arrangements. Compliance will be verified at two levels: (i) during sub-project screening and design, through the ESMP screening checklist and the feasibility studies prepared for each sub-project; and (ii) during implementation, through the participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) system (Activity 3.1.1) and supervision by the Community-Based Local Coordinator (CCLC) and the 25 community facilitators. Under Component 1 (Activities 1.1.2, 1.2.2, and 1.2.3), the CCLC, the community facilitators, and the beneficiaries will receive training on the technical standards applicable to their activities, in line with paragraph 33 of the updated AFB USP guidance.

The table below presents the main national laws and regulations as well as the Adaptation Fund standards applicable to the project:

Table 4 : Main national laws and regulations, as well as the Adaptation Fund standards applicable

Legal text	Relevance to the project
Environmental framework	
Law No. 98-030 of February 12, 1999 establishing a framework law on the environment	Obligation to assess and manage the environmental and social impacts of subprojects; legal framework of reference for all interventions
Decree No. 2017-332 of July 6, 2017 on the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure	Defines the environmental assessment procedure applicable to project activities
Climate change	
Law No. 2018-18 of August 6, 2018 on climate change	Specific legal framework for climate adaptation actions; legalizes the project's intervention in the context of climate change
Coastal zone	
Law No. 2018-10 of July 2, 2018 on the protection, development and enhancement of the coastal zone	Governs all interventions carried out in the coastal zone and is directly applicable to coastal and lagoon protection, mangrove restoration, and riverbank reforestation sub-projects.
Local governance	
Law No. 2021-14 of December 20, 2021 on the territorial administration code	Defines the institutional framework for implementation at the community level; legitimizes the inter-community approach of the project.
Law No. 97-029 of January 15, 1999 on the organization of municipalities	Institutional anchoring of actions at the level of member municipalities of the Coastal Lagoons Community
Land	

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Legal text	Relevance to the project
Law No. 2013-01 of January 14, 2013, on the Land and Property Code, amended by Law No. 2017-15	Guarantees secure land tenure for beneficiaries, particularly women; provides a framework for potential land acquisitions and compensation mechanisms.
Water resources	
Law No. 2010-44 of October 21, 2010 on water management	Oversees interventions related to water management; protection of aquatic ecosystems in coastal lagoons.
Public health	
Law No. 87-015 of September 21, 1987 establishing the Public Health Code	Public health requirements applicable to community water points, water storage, pesticide use restricted to WHO Class III and below (excluding Classes Ia, Ib and II), and agro-processing waste management.
Disaster risk reduction	
Decree No. 2023-334 on disaster risk reduction	A framework for flood and disaster risk reduction ensures that sub-projects align with commune contingency plans (PCC) and reduce beneficiaries' exposure.
Gender and protection of vulnerable persons	
Law No. 2011-26 of January 9, 2011 on the prevention and punishment of violence against women	Integration of gender issues; protection of female beneficiaries against all forms of violence within the framework of the project
Law No. 2017-06 of September 29, 2017 on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities	Ensures the effective inclusion of persons with disabilities among beneficiaries; accessibility of infrastructure and services
Work and social protection	
Law No. 98-004 of January 27, 1998, Establishing the Labor Code	Regulates working conditions in income-generating activities; protects workers on construction sites and in project activities.
Natural resources	
Law No. 93-009 of July 2, 1993, on forest management	Protection of coastal forest ecosystems; supervision of reforestation and ecological restoration activities
Law No. 2014-19 of August 7, 2014 on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code	Regulation of fishing and aquaculture activities; protection of lagoon resources on which coastal communities depend
Agriculture and food security	
Law No. 2022-14 of July 9, 2022 on agricultural policy, food security, and nutrition	Framework for climate-resilient agricultural activities; promoting food security for vulnerable populations
Adaptation Fund Standards	
Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund (2016, revised 2021)	International compliance framework; ensures that the project complies with international standards on human rights and social protection
Environmental and Social Principles and Criteria (ESP) of the FA	Specific standards for assessing and managing environmental and social risks applicable to the project
Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund (2016)	Requirement to incorporate a transformative gender approach; alignment with Benin's PAGCCB
FA Risk Categorization Standards	Determines the level of environmental and social assessment required and the appropriate management mechanisms
FA Complaints Management Mechanism	Requirement to establish a complaint management mechanism at the project level, in accordance with FA standards

F – Duplication

Describe if there is duplication of project / programme with other funding sources, if any. Decribe how the project/programme will ensure coordination of different initiatives, sub-projects and small grants towards a common goal, enhances collaboration across sectors and outlines how activities avoid duplication and enhance efficiencies and good practice

The LLA-CCLC project is part of a coherent territorial dynamic that complements existing climate, coastal, and Lagoon development initiatives in Benin without duplicating them. The project's distinctive feature is its locally led approach. Rather than funding institutions or large-scale infrastructure projects, the project directs Adaptation Fund resources to vulnerable communities, including women, young people, small-scale producers, and people with disabilities, to restore ecosystems and develop climate-resilient crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains. This community-level delivery channel addresses unmet needs and builds on the achievements of previous projects.

The LLA-CCLC complements the LoCAL mechanism (SAP032), which is also implemented by the FNEC. While LoCAL strengthens local government institutions and infrastructure, the LLA-CCLC works directly with community organizations on livelihoods and ecosystems. The LLA-CCLC also supports coastal initiatives operating in the same lagoon communes, including the FAO/GEF-LDCF mangrove project, the WACA Benin program, and the regional WACA+ program. The World Bank Grand Nokoué Sustainable Urban Mobility and Stormwater Management project partially overlap with the CCLC area in Abomey-Calavi and Ouidah, and both projects share the same lagoon system. However, their areas of focus remain distinct: the Grand Nokoué project focuses on urban mobility and stormwater drainage, while the CCLC project focuses on community-based livelihoods and ecosystem restoration. Meanwhile, the inland projects SAP005 and OCRI (FP187) follow a similar adaptation approach outside the coastal zone with no geographic overlap. The LLA-CCLC design directly builds on this experience. While previous projects operated in CCLC communes without coordination, this project includes a shared coordination mechanism from the start. It also incorporates lessons learned from earlier and ongoing initiatives, summarized in

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Table 5, into its delivery model. These initiatives include FNEC's institutional experience from LoCAL, mangrove restoration methods, alternative livelihood strategies, and pairing conservation areas with income-generating activities. To ensure coordination and avoid overlap, the FNEC, a key contact point and implementing body for several of these initiatives, will create a joint quarterly steering committee and a georeferenced database that includes all beneficiaries and subprojects. The committee will follow a strict verification process, including checks of intervention history and municipal register reviews. The process will also automatically exclude beneficiaries supported in the past 24 months and prioritize groups and areas that have not yet been reached. Table 5 below summarizes the main interventions, synergies, absence of overlap, lessons learned and added value of each related project.

Two additional FNEC initiatives not included in Table 5 further complement this analysis. The FNEC's Adaptation Fund project on meteorological services and a multi-hazard Early Warning System (EWS) is currently at the concept note stage. Although the activities proposed under the LLA-CCLC project are not duplicated, the two initiatives are expected to complement each other. The climate information and early warnings generated by the EWS project could help LLA-CCLC beneficiaries anticipate climate risks and inform the design and implementation of their sub-projects. Meanwhile, FNEC's GCF Health Resilience project (SAP055) focuses primarily on strengthening climate resilience in the health sector, with only limited market gardening activities. It is being implemented in the Adjohoun-Bonou-Dangbo (ABD) zone of the lower Ouémé Valley, which is outside the CCLC coastal communes.

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Table 5 : Analysis of complementarity between the LLA-CCLC and existing climate initiatives in Benin

Projects	Main Interventions / Duration / Location	Potential synergies and lack of overlap	Lessons learned	Link or added value to this LLA-CCLC project
Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility – LoCAL (SAP032)	Performance-based climate-resilience grants to communes to mainstream adaptation in local planning and budgeting and to fund basic adaptation infrastructure, plus capacity building and a climate-finance transfer mechanism. Implementing entity: FNEC (*GCF, US$9.9M*). Scaling from 9 to 34 communes nationwide, including the CCLC communes. **Duration:** *2024–2030.*	Same National Implementing Entity (FNEC) and the same performance-based local-financing logic. LoCAL strengthens local-government institutions and infrastructure, while the LLA-CCLC project works directly with community organizations on livelihoods and ecosystems, complementary, no duplication. FNEC coordinates both through a joint steering committee, a shared geo-referenced beneficiary database and a 24-month exclusion rule.	Performance-based transfers to communes are feasible, but institutional financing alone does not reach households. The LLA-CCLC was designed to combine institutional financing with direct community grants and shared coordination to prevent the siloed delivery seen previously.	Delivers Adaptation Fund resources directly to communities and the CCLC (LLA), filling the livelihood and ecosystem-restoration gap that LoCAL's commune-level investments do not cover.
Grand Nokoué Sustainable Urban Mobility (GN-SUMP) and Stormwater Management project	Climate-resilient multimodal urban transport (bus and lake/lagoon boat services on Lake Nokoué and the Porto-Novo lagoon), professionalization of informal operators, road and waterway safety, e-mobility and institutional capacity. World Bank IDA + AIIB (~US$200M IDA; ~US$490M total). **Location:** *Grand Nokoué - Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Sèmè-Podji, Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah*. **Duration:** *2026 - 2035*.	Geographic overlap limited to Abomey-Calavi and Ouidah and the shared lagoon system; thematically distinct (transport vs. livelihoods/ecosystems), so no duplication. Shared interest in resilient lagoon-zone infrastructure and reduced runoff pollution.	Large lagoon projects can disrupt ecosystems and vulnerable users if safeguards are insufficient. This led the LLA-CCLC to choose small-scale, low-risk subprojects and systematic ESP/GP screening.	Ecosystem restoration (mangroves, wetlands, banks) under the LLA-CCLC project can protect lagoon transport assets, while improved accessibility supports market access for its crop, livestock and aquaculture value chains.
Regional Program for the Blue Economy and Coastal Resilience in West Africa (WACA+)	Coastal protection from erosion and flooding, blue-economy value chains (fisheries, aquaculture, ecotourism), restoration of up to 3,000 ha of mangroves/wetlands, MSME support and blended finance, and capacity building (31,000+ people), with a women and youth focus. World Bank (~US$240M), Phase 1 in Benin and Mauritania. **Location:** coastal Benin. **Duration:** *2026 – 2031*.	Strong thematic overlap (fisheries/aquaculture value chains, mangrove and wetland restoration, women and youth) in the same coastal zone; coordination needed to avoid funding the same sites or beneficiaries twice. WACA+ delivers large coastal-protection infrastructure and private finance, while the LLA-CCLC project funds small community-led adaptation grants.	Large coastal investments risk funding the same sites and beneficiaries twice. This concern led to the development of the LLA-CCLC's georeferenced database and 24-month exclusion rule. The rule maintains the lessons of WACA+ regarding nature-based and blended-finance approaches.	The LLA-CCLC project provides a community-level delivery channel that complements WACA+ macro-investments; its sub-projects can be protected by, and feed into, WACA+ coastal works.
WACA Benin program	WACA Resilience Investment Project (WACA ResIP, P162337): Mono Basin Restoration; Erosion Reduction at Avlo through Bouche du Roy; and a Landscape Approach in Ouidah/Chenal de Gbaga, which establishes community conservation areas (wetlands and mangroves) combined with income-generating activities. World Bank/IDA (~US$221.7 million regionally). **Location:** *Coastal Benin, including Grand-Popo and Ouidah*. **Duration:** *2018–2025.*	Direct geographic overlap (Grand-Popo, and Ouidah) and shared ecosystem-restoration and income-generating-activity logic the strongest coordination need. WACA Benin focuses on engineering and landscape coastal-protection works; the LLA-CCLC project on community-led livelihoods. Complementary once sites and beneficiaries are deconflicted.	Without ongoing community income, conservation progress diminishes. The LLA-CCLC therefore includes income-generating sub-projects and local ownership to strengthen WACA Benin's conservation areas after they close.	The proposed project consolidates and sustains WACA Benin's community conservation and IGA gains, extends benefits to groups not yet covered, and strengthens local ownership.
Enhanced climate resilience of rural communities in central and north Benin through the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in forest and agricultural landscapes (SAP005)	Ecosystem-based Adaptation: restoration of degraded forest ecosystems combined with climate-resilient agriculture and strengthened technical and institutional capacity. GCF (~US$9M); UNEP (Accredited Entity), FNEC in execution and steering, ICRAF for M&E. **Location:** 7 inland municipalities of central and northern Benin (*Dassa-Zoumè, Tchaourou, Djougou, Ouaké, Cobly, Boukoumbé, Banikoara*). **Duration:** *2019–2026*.	Same EbA, climate-resilient agriculture and capacity-building logic and shared FNEC involvement; located inland in the centre/north, so no geographic overlap with the coastal CCLC communes and no duplication.	Inland EbA showed that restoration only succeeds when there are strong capacity building and effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E). These tested tools and FNEC's experience are tailored to the coastal-lagoon context to avoid implementing untested designs.	Provides tested EbA tools, training modules and lessons that FNEC can adapt to the coastal-lagoon context of the LLA-CCLC project.
Ouémé Basin Climate-Resilience Initiative (OCRI) Benin	Climate-resilient agriculture and low-emission agroforestry, waterworks to reduce erosion and runoff, and improved land and water management over 95,000 ha, reaching ~330,000 smallholders. Total project value: US$35,3 M. **Location:** *upper and middle Ouémé Basin (central Benin)*. **Duration:** *2022–2028.*	Shared climate-resilient agriculture, livelihoods, land/water management and gender focus; located in the inland Ouémé basin, so no geographic overlap and no duplication.	OCRI found that climate-smart agriculture expands only when smallholders are intentionally targeted and gender considerations are integrated. These lessons influenced the inclusive targeting criteria for the crop and livestock components of the LLA-CCLC.	Offers transferable climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry models for the crop and livestock components of the LLA-CCLC project in the coastal zone.
Strengthening human and natural systems resilience to climate change through mangrove ecosystems conservation and sustainable use in southern Benin	Conservation, sustainable use and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, livelihood diversification and an enabling governance environment (~50,000 ha under improved management; ~300,000 beneficiaries, 50% women). Total budget: US$70.7 million. Location: nine southern communes including all five CCLC communes (Grand-Popo, Comè, Ouidah; Kpomassè, Abomey-Calavi), Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018. **Duration:** 2023–2028.	Highest overlap same coastal communes and the same ecosystem-restoration and livelihood-diversification themes; coordination of sites and beneficiaries is essential to avoid duplication (FNEC database and steering committee). FAO operates at landscape/governance scale; the LLA-CCLC project funds community-led adaptation sub-projects.	Mangrove loss occurs again where there are no alternative livelihoods. Because this project has the most overlap, the LLA-CCLC will use the FNEC database to coordinate sites and beneficiaries and to expand its alternative livelihood model in the same communities.	Community sub-projects can scale up and sustain mangrove-restoration and alternative-livelihood gains in the same communes, including after the FAO project closes.

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G –Lessons learned, knowledge management, and insights gained

If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned and how this contributes to building and institutionalizing local capabilities. Provide details on managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant.

Effective knowledge management and continuous learning are essential factors in ensuring the success and sustainability of local climate change adaptation initiatives. Component 3 of the project, "Sustaining project achievements and knowledge management," was designed to systematically collect, synthesize, and disseminate lessons learned from various locally implemented adaptation initiatives (LLA) in a relevant, accessible, and sustainable manner. By adopting a community-based and participatory approach, this project aims to fill major gaps in knowledge and evidence, and to strengthen collective understanding of good practices for locally implemented, equitable, and effective initiatives. It also aims to support informed decision-making by local stakeholders and government institutions.

The communication strategy for local adaptation initiatives developed as part of this project will be based on this Component 3 and will aim to promote the results obtained by capitalizing on them and disseminating them to all local communities in the five (05) beneficiary municipalities, as well as to managers and authorities responsible for local development. This communication strategy will be structured around the following activities:

- **Project launch workshop:** this aims to inform and discuss with all local stakeholders (farmers, livestock breeders, fishermen, professional agricultural organizations (PAOs), community leaders, local and decentralized authorities, etc.) about the opportunities offered by the project's interventions to create the conditions for successful implementation of local adaptation initiatives (LAIs) and to strengthen the resilience of the crop, livestock, and fisheries sectors to climate hazards.
- **Exchange visits and experience-sharing workshops (activity 3.2.2):** these are designed to enable project beneficiaries to share the experiences they have gained with each other during exchange visits with other local non-beneficiaries during experience-sharing workshops. These exchanges could spark interest among other stakeholders, particularly local communities and authorities and the private sector, in good agricultural, animal and fisheries practices, as well as in the value chain development models implemented by the project.
- **Training of farmers, livestock keepers, and fishers:** it aims to transmit knowledge on good agricultural, livestock, and fishing practices, as well as on the management of agricultural value chains, in order to generate their interest in these practices and then lead them to gradually adopt them as satisfactory results are achieved.
- **Workshops for the review and capitalization of project results:** these workshops will serve as a platform for presenting the project results and raising awareness among opinion leaders of the benefits and opportunities associated with local adaptation initiatives. Testimonies from beneficiaries will make it possible to concretely assess the socio-economic impacts of the project's interventions and achievements in the five (05) beneficiary municipalities. The participation of climate change management stakeholders, as well as staff from decentralized agricultural, livestock, and fisheries structures, will foster an in-depth understanding of the project results and contribute to the dissemination of the accumulated know-how to other localities.
- **Dissemination of project results:** through the media (local radio, social networks, print media, television, the FNEC website), as well as through institutions responsible for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, universities, secondary schools and agricultural training institutions, agricultural extension centers, and NGOs operating in the agricultural sector, the project's achievements will reach a larger number of farmers, livestock keepers, fishers, communities, local authorities, and stakeholders involved in the management of the agricultural sectors in Benin.
- **Managing traditional and local knowledge:** the CCLC communes, particularly the Toffin, Pédah, Xwla, and Xwéla communities, which depend on the lagoon and fishing and are identified in Section B, hold traditional and local knowledge of endogenous species and seed varieties, fishing and mangrove management practices, and flood-coping strategies. This knowledge is highly relevant to Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). Within Component 3, this knowledge will be identified and

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documented through participatory inventories conducted with the knowledge holders themselves under Activities 1.1.1 and 3.2.1. The 25 community facilitators will serve as a liaison with local communities during this process. Before documenting any traditional or local knowledge in toolkits, case studies, or other knowledge products, the relevant communities or individual knowledge holders will provide prior informed consent, and the source of the knowledge will be explicitly acknowledged and attributed to its holders. Any knowledge products intended for public dissemination via the CCLC digital platform, the FNEC website, or regional channels (Activity 3.2.2) will be subject to safeguards to prevent their appropriation or commercial use without the knowledge holders' agreement, in line with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (including Principle 7 on Indigenous Peoples) and Gender Policy.

H – Stakeholder consultation

Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. Provide details on how the consultative process considered and addressed gender-based, economic and other inequalities and encouraged vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions

The stakeholder consultation process, conducted during the development of this concept note, occurred in three iterative phases from February to December 2025. This process adhered to the Adaptation Fund's (AF) Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy. This phased approach ensured the project design was based on locally identified priorities and that vulnerable groups, especially women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized multiethnic communities, had a genuine opportunity to influence adaptation decisions.

Phase 1: Consultation with municipal authorities and technical cadres (February 2025)

The consultation process started with an institutional assessment workshop on February 20, 2025, at the CCLC headquarters in Grand-Popo. The workshop involved 26 elected officials and municipal technical staff (25 men and one woman) from the five CCLC communes (participant lists in Appendix 2.1). This workshop involved a consultation with CCLC-elected officials and technical staff from decentralized services. Rather than a community-level consultation of potential beneficiaries, it was an institutional and preparatory step whose composition reflected the local elected and technical bodies represented, in which women remain structurally underrepresented (Section B). The purpose of the workshop was to prepare for the subsequent consultation of a broader range of project stakeholders and potential beneficiaries, among other objectives. The aim was to: (i) establish an initial baseline of the CCLC's climate vulnerability, current climate and development projects, and institutional readiness; (ii) identify adaptation options aligned with municipal priorities and national policies; and (iii) prepare for the community-level consultation phase by defining key stakeholder groups, discussion formats, and information gaps. The municipal authorities are committed to participating in all stages of project development, facilitating project implementation, and identifying community-based organizations as potential sub-project implementers. The findings were compiled into a consultation report to guide the design and approach of the community-level consultations.

The following photos illustrate key moments from the consultations with municipal authorities and technical cadres.






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Phase 2: Community beneficiary consultations (April 2025)

Based on the institutional assessment, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement mission was carried out across the five CCLC municipalities in April 2025. Field mission comprised a four-member technical team, including 02 CCLC representatives, 01 FNEC representative, and 01 FNEC consultant. Two women supported the mission by managing finances and accounting. In each municipality, the consultation was structured into three phases: (i) a meeting with local authorities, (ii) targeted discussions with potential project beneficiaries organized by livelihood group and social category, and (iii) field visits to priority adaptation sites. To ensure inclusive understanding, the interview guides were conducted in French and in the local languages Fon and Mina.

A total of 202 individuals took part in the stakeholder consultation mission, including 21.78% women and 5.94% individuals with disabilities. Participant lists are presented in Appendix 2.2. The proportion of women who participated varied by municipality, ranging from 15.9% to 29.55%.

Exchanges with stakeholders enabled the collection of key information on the climate challenges faced by the municipalities of the CCLC. Indeed, all municipalities reported exposure to various climate phenomena, such as floods, strong winds, irregular rainfall, and prolonged droughts. These events have caused crop destruction, losses of human life and livestock, damage to infrastructure, the disappearance of fish, plant, and animal species, as well as disruptions to the agricultural calendar. Women emphasized their increased exposure to climate risks. According to them, domestic work increases during droughts, such as water collection. In response to these challenges, communities identified priority needs, including the deployment of sustainable irrigation systems powered by solar energy, active ecosystem restoration (reforestation, lake dredging), strengthening local capacities through agroecology farmer field schools, and the establishment of inclusive early warning systems for vulnerable people.

Table 6 : Distribution of consulted stakeholders

N°	Dates	Municipalities visited	Total number	Men	Women	People with disabilities
1	22/04/2025	Ouidah	29	22	07	03
2	23/04/2025	Kpomassè	43	35	08	01
3	24/04/2025	Comè	44	37	07	03
4	25/04/2025	Grand-Popo	42	33	09	03
5	28/04/2025	Abomey-Calavi	44	31	13	02
Total			**202**	**158**	**44**	**12**

The 12 people with disabilities who participated identified specific barriers, such as inaccessible infrastructure and limited adapted technologies, as well as social stigma. They recommended accessible agricultural infrastructure and information materials in adapted formats.

The following photos illustrate some key moments from the stakeholder consultations.

- **Ouidah stage**



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- **Kpomassè stage**
- **Comè stage**



- **Grand-Popo stage**



- **Abomey-Calavi stage**



Phase 3: Validation workshop (December 2025)

After finalizing the draft concept note, a validation workshop was held from December 9–11, 2025, at the CCLC headquarters in Grand-Popo. The workshop brought together 20 key stakeholders, including municipal representatives, CCLC and FNEC leadership, community-based organizations, women's groups, and decentralized technical services. Of the stakeholders, 15 were men, and 5 were women. The workshop enabled the project team to: (i) adjust project activities to better reflect the community priorities identified during the April consultations, (ii) validate the financing mechanism to ensure its adaptation to the Locally Led Adaptation approach, (iii) discuss and approve the budget, and (iv) finalize the project proposal and concept note for submission to the Adaptation Fund.

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The visual records of the validation workshop engagement presented below illustrate the participatory process.








Measures undertaken during the completed consultations: to facilitate women's participation, the interview guides were administered in French, Fon, and Mina. Overall, female participation reached 21.78%, ranging from 15.9% in Comè to 29.55% in Abomey-Calavi. No women-only focus groups or dedicated female facilitators were organized at this stage, and no formal partnership was established with women's organizations. These additional measures are planned for the full proposal. Regarding youth, ethnic communities, and persons with disabilities, the latter participated in consultations across all five communes and voiced their concerns directly, including through the President of the ASEHB association of persons with disabilities in Abomey-Calavi. Their concerns informed the eligibility menu, including accessible agricultural infrastructure and information in adapted formats, as well as the sub-project inclusion criteria. The producers who were consulted, including fishers, market gardeners, poultry and fish farmers, and livestock keepers, came from the local communities of the five communes described in Section B. However, participants were not disaggregated by ethnicity, and youth were not recorded as a distinct category. Both forms of disaggregation are planned for the final proposal. Regarding organized stakeholders, in addition to potential beneficiaries, the completed consultations involved non-governmental organizations (NGOs), cooperatives, decentralized technical services (including ATDA and the Communal Water and Forests Services), private-sector actors, and an organization of persons with disabilities (ASEHB). Women's organizations and youth associations were not specifically convened at this stage but will be engaged explicitly during the consultation process for the full proposal.

The full proposal will strengthen the consultation process to: (i) ensure balanced gender participation (aiming for at least 40% women) through women-only focus groups, involving women's organizations as co-facilitators, offering flexible scheduling, and providing childcare; (ii) disaggregate all participation data by sex, age group, disability status, and ethnicity; (iii) explicitly involve women's organizations, youth associations, disability-rights organizations (DPOs), local NGOs, decentralized technical services, and private-sector actors; and (iv) provide a detailed mapping of stakeholder concerns related to specific design choices in the eligibility menu, sub-project selection criteria, ESMP, and Gender Action Plan.

I – Justification for funding

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

The requested funding of $4,992,677 is vital to ensure the CCLC's sustainable adaptation to climate impacts. This will be achieved by boosting the resilience of vulnerable communities through three integrated intervention pathways: (i) *ecosystem restoration* (e.g., mangrove reforestation and protection of fish breeding grounds); (ii) *development of climate-resilient crop value chains* (e.g., drought- and flood-resistant crop varieties, sustainable micro-irrigation systems, and agroecology); and (iii) *development of climate-resilient livestock and aquaculture value chains* (e.g., climate-smart animal husbandry and integrated aquaculture systems). This comprehensive, multisectoral approach addresses the interconnected climate vulnerabilities of lagoon and rural populations relying on agriculture, livestock, and artisanal fishing.

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- **Baseline scenario:** without targeted adaptation investments, the CCLC would continue to face recurring climate-related losses, including annual flooding, coastal erosion, salinization, and depleted fish stocks. Communities would depend on reactive crisis response rather than proactive resilience-building.
- **Adaptation alternative:** this project implements a climate resilience strategy that specifically addresses vulnerabilities caused by climate change, exceeding what is typically done. For example: (i) improved crop varieties that are chosen for expected rainfall changes and are resistant to droughts and floods; (ii) solar-powered micro-irrigation systems that ensure water access during increasingly frequent droughts; and (iii) mangrove reforestation using oyster-cage restoration techniques to quickly rebuild breeding habitats damaged by climate-driven lagoon changes.
- **Incremental cost:** the Adaptation Fund finances climate-resilience activities, including selecting climate-specific varieties, installing renewable energy systems, conducting participatory climate vulnerability assessments, and training community facilitators to ensure that adaptation solutions are locally owned, monitored, and scaled.
- **Complexity of climate risks and diversity of impacts:** the CCLC faces interconnected risks (cyclical floods, coastal erosion, marine submersion, salinization, droughts, strong winds, heat waves) with serious impacts on communities and socio-economic sectors. This range of risks requires an integrated, multisectoral approach, which justifies significant investment for comprehensive coverage and targeted responses.
- **Increased vulnerability of populations and ecosystems:** climate change exacerbates the susceptibility of CCLC communities, especially rural and lagoon populations, as well as local infrastructure and fragile ecosystems (lagoons, mangroves, wetlands), to extreme events. The rise in these events increases vulnerability and requires investments to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities that rely on climate-sensitive natural resources to anticipate, respond to, and recover from shocks.
- **Socio-economic costs of climate damages:** extreme events have significant economic impacts in the CCLC. Recurrent floods lead to loss of life, destruction of infrastructure (housing, fishing equipment, fields), and cause major losses in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, disrupting essential services, increasing food insecurity, and compromising livelihoods. The funding aims to mitigate these losses by strengthening the adaptation capacity of communities, production systems, and ecosystems, acting proactively before these events escalate into crises.
- **Sustainable and scaling of adaptation solutions:** investments in adaptation generate positive effects, including diversifying resilient value chains, creating alternative income-generating activities, restoring lagoon and coastal ecosystems, and promoting climate-resilient practices. These investments produce lasting benefits for future generations.

Strategic gaps without Adaptation Fund support: the project aims to strengthen the CCLC's climate resilience by supporting community-based adaptation initiatives across the crop, livestock, and aquaculture value chains. Without Adaptation Fund funding, the following critical gaps would remain: (i) the municipalities lack robust mechanisms to access community adaptation funding; (ii) communities lack the capacity to design and implement climate-resilient practices; and (iii) there is no AF-aligned financing window within FNEC to support the replication and scaling of effective solutions. The Adaptation Fund is crucial to addressing these strategic gaps, protecting vulnerable livelihoods, and strengthening coordination among municipalities. Instead of creating new entities, the AF leverages existing institutional structures (FNEC, municipal councils, and community organizations) to deliver cost-effective, sustainable change from vulnerability to resilience.

Full-cost-of-adaptation screening integration: in the full proposal, all sub-projects will be evaluated against climate-attribution criteria. This will show that the activities are essential due to climate change impacts and extend beyond typical development. These criteria will be incorporated into the sub-project selection process and the ESMP, in line with the AFB USP guidance.

J – Sustainability

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

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designing the project / programme. In particular, describe how the project/programme supports long-term development of local governance processes, and improves the capacity of local institutions (including through simpler access modalities), and how it can ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions, facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding.

The sustainability of the project's results was carefully integrated from the design phase through the active involvement of national and local stakeholders and the implementation of a participatory approach. Ministries, municipalities of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), civil society, the private sector, and the beneficiaries themselves (notably women's and youth groups involved in plant, animal, and fisheries value chains) will be engaged at every stage of implementation, ensuring that actions undertaken address the real needs of communities and stakeholders. The participation of central and regional directorates, in collaboration with community organizations, NGOs, and private actors, guarantees local and inclusive management of initiatives.

The project will also focus on strengthening the capacities of end-users through training and awareness-raising activities to promote the dissemination and adoption of climate-smart adaptation practices within the municipalities, as well as the dissemination of resilient tools and technologies for producers and value chain actors. In this way, the sustainability of results will be ensured through the continued involvement of local actors, decentralized resource management, and capacity-building actions aimed at securing the long-term benefits of the project.

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of local communities to climate change by supporting community-based adaptation initiatives integrated into the value chains of plant, animal, and fisheries sectors. By the end of the project, several adaptation benefits are expected to emerge and be sustained over the long term, including:

- **Sustainable infrastructure operation and maintenance:** each beneficiary community is responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the implemented infrastructure, including solar-powered irrigation pumps, water tanks, basins, community water points, and nurseries. During sub-project formulation, each promoter must demonstrate in the sub-project design documents how the infrastructure will be sustainably maintained over the long term. This includes identifying responsibility arrangements, financing solutions, and the necessary local technical capacity. During Component 1 training activities (Activity 1.1.2), emphasis will be placed on helping communities identify and design solutions that are both viable and locally appropriate for maintaining the infrastructure. The quality and feasibility of the maintenance plan will be a key evaluation criterion in selecting sub-projects, ensuring that only those with credible, community-endorsed maintenance plans receive funding approval.
- **Sustainable strengthening of technical and institutional capacities**: the developed training modules, mapping reports of resilient practices, and capacity-building activities carried out (Component 1) will continue to provide local actors (community groups, municipal agricultural advisory services, and sectoral institutions) with the necessary skills to design, implement, and monitor adaptation initiatives. Beneficiary institutions, notably municipal agricultural councils and the FNEC, will maintain their enhanced operational capacities, ensuring the continuity of climate-resilient practices.
- **Sustainable local financing mechanisms**: the FNEC-adapted financing window (Component 2) and the sustainable financing mobilization mechanism (Activity 3.1.2) will be implemented through the 25 community facilitators hired under Activity 1.2.3. These facilitators will play a crucial role in engaging communities around sustainable financing options. The capacity-building activities provided to the CCLC and municipal institutions through Component 1 will help them develop and access additional funding for adaptation from concrete, existing instruments. At the domestic level, potential sources of financing include the FNEC's national financing window, which allocates domestic resources to environmental and climate action. The FNEC's accreditation to both the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund also offers opportunities to mobilize international climate finance. Other potential sources include the *Fonds d'Appui au Développement des Communes (FADeC)*, which could provide additional funding for CCLC communes. At the international level, potential sources include the Green Climate Fund, which builds on FNEC's experience with the LoCAL facility (SAP032), as well as the blended-

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finance window of the regional WACA+ programme. This will ensure that the financing mechanism remains sustainable and can be replicated beyond the project's duration. Funded initiatives will be sustained and possibly replicated through the engagement of trained local actors and facilitated access to additional financing.

- **Local ownership and inclusive access to adaptation practices**: through community support, inclusive knowledge dissemination formats (toolkits, exchange visits, workshops, and the FNEC digital platform), and the involvement of vulnerable groups (women, youth, marginalized producers), communities will develop lasting skills to adopt and promote resilient practices. Repeated training and simulations will cultivate appropriate local adaptation reflexes.
- **Knowledge and Learning Management (KLM)**: a structured KLM mechanism will be established through Activities 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 to capitalize on best practices, ensure continuous training, and improve local and national adaptation policies.

The sustainability of these actions also relies on a stronger regulatory and institutional framework, with the integration of project achievements into municipal and inter-municipal development plans. Finally, social anchoring is advanced through the active participation of vulnerable groups, the co-creation of adaptation initiatives, and the use of community intermediaries to disseminate and encourage the adoption of practices. This ensures the long-term sustainability of interventions.

K –Risks related to environmental and social impacts

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

Based on available information and expert judgment, the preliminary identification of project risks for each relevant outcome, with regard to the 15 Environmental and Social (E&S) principles of the Adaptation Fund (AF), conducted during consultations with the relevant national and local stakeholders, led to the classification of the project as Category B, with the probability of risks considered moderate. The potential impact of these risks is limited, localized, and manageable. However, a thorough assessment, in accordance with E&S standards, will be conducted with local beneficiaries, including competent technical staff, during the development of the full proposal, in line with the Adaptation Fund's E&S Policy.

Given its Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) design, the specific subprojects to be funded are not determined at the Concept Note stage. Instead, beneficiary communities and the CCLC will identify and select them through a participatory process (Activities 1.1.1 and 2.2.1). This approach aligns with the principles of LLA. The project area borders the Mono River and a coastline with Togo, creating cross-border risks related to shared water resources and migratory species. The ecosystem restoration activities will have beneficial cross-border effects. Cross-border impact screening will be carried out during the development of each sub-project. The CCLC area faces cumulative impacts from nearby projects, including WACA/WACA+, WB SUMP, LoCAL, GCF EbA, and FNEC AF EWS. These impacts will be assessed using a georeferenced beneficiary database (Activity 2.1.3) and discussed during quarterly coordination meetings (Activity 3.1.1).

The project employs an Unidentified Sub-Projects (USP) approach defined by the eligibility menu and exclusion list (Appendix 3). These set limits on funding for small-scale, low-risk adaptation interventions. In accordance with the Adaptation Fund's USP guidance, an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), including an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and grievance mechanism, will be developed during the full proposal stage. This system will ensure that each selected sub-project undergoes the same ESP/GP risk identification, consultation, and gender-disaggregated data collection as fully developed activities. This will be accomplished through systematic screening, categorization, mitigation, and monitoring procedures that follow the AF's 15 ESP principles and national standards. This approach upholds the USP modality while ensuring that no subproject involving more than minor, localized, and manageable risks receives funding.

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Table 7 : Identified Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Principle 1: *Compliance with the Law*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low The project will be implemented in full compliance with all relevant national and international legislation, including environmental framework law and climate change law. However, potential risks of non-compliance may arise during implementation and will require continuous clarification. **Mitigation Plan:** A comprehensive environmental and social assessment will be carried out at the full proposal stage to ensure compliance with the Adaptation Fund's 15 ESP principles and national standards. **Further assessment required to ensure continued compliance.**
Principle 2: *Access and Equity*		**Risk:** Medium **Potential impact:** Low The USP modality presents a risk of unequal grant access for smaller or less-connected community organizations. **Mitigation Plan:** The sub-project selection criteria will include fair stakeholder participation, focused outreach to marginalized groups, and tracking beneficiary diversity. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 3: *Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low While the LLA project prioritizes marginalized and vulnerable groups, the risk of unintentional exclusion persists due to social norms or power imbalances. **Mitigation Plan:** The stakeholder engagement and participatory planning will clearly define the community engagement and deployment processes, as well as the screening and mitigation measures. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 4: Human Rights		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low No activities are planned that would violate international human rights norms. All community engagement, grant awards and deployment activities will respect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. **Mitigation Plan:** IE will ensure that human rights issues are included in consultations with stakeholders during the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study, which will provide an overview of relevant issues and monitor implementation. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 5: *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*		**Risk:** Medium **Potential impact:** Medium There is a moderate risk that entrenched social norms may prevent women from participating equally in, or benefiting from, LLA's project activities. **Mitigation Plan:** Gender is mainstreamed throughout all project components. An initial gender analysis has been carried out, and a more detailed analysis will be completed at the stage of developing the full proposal through the Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 6: *Core Labor Rights*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low Although the project is committed to respecting both ILO core labor standards and national labor law, some of its activities may not meet these standards due to a lack of knowledge regarding labor rights. **Mitigation Plan:** The project will adhere to core labor rights and incorporate ILO standards into its design and implementation. It will also raise awareness of how these standards can be applied. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 7: *Indigenous Peoples*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low No indigenous peoples have been identified in the project area at this stage. However, there is a risk that project activities may fail to adequately consult with or benefit indigenous peoples in areas where they are present. **Mitigation Plan:** During project implementation, a detailed analysis will be carried out to confirm or rule out the presence of minorities or marginalized ethnic groups in the area. Appropriate measures will then be taken in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). **Further assessment required.**
Principle 8: *Involuntary Resettlement*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low Activities will be carried out on existing community sites and/or agricultural lands and will not require physical displacement. However, water points, basins, and reforestation may involve land-use changes or restrictions on customary use. **Mitigation Plan:** The project will not finance infrastructure or other interventions that require displacement or resettlement. All sites proposed for agricultural, livestock, and fishing activities will undergo an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). This assessment will ensure the project complies with this condition and will screen for land tenure impacts and community consent during the development of sub-projects. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 9: *Protection of Natural Habitats*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low here is a slight risk that the deployment of adaptation technologies may affect sensitive habitats unintentionally (e.g. through small-scale agro-processing or irrigation). **Mitigation Plan:** Project activities will be screened for such impacts under the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process, and mitigation measures will be developed where relevant. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 10: *Conservation of Biological Diversity*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low Although the LLA project promotes ecosystem-compatible solutions, risks may arise if activities such as reforestation unintentionally introduce invasive species or disrupt local biodiversity. **Mitigation Plan:** The ESIA will include guidance and safeguards to prevent such risks, and these will be supported through awareness activities. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 11: *Climate Change*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low All interventions are adaptation-oriented and will not result in significant emissions. However, there is a risk of maladaptation, such as groundwater depletion from irrigation, expansion into climate-sensitive areas, and the introduction of unsuitable species. **Mitigation Plan:** Specific screening tools will be included in the feasibility studies and sub-project design to assess how well each activity aligns with long-term resilience goals. Technical screening and climate change impact assessments will be performed for each subproject during the planning phase to identify and reduce maladaptation risks. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 12: *Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low Although most supported technologies will be environmentally friendly, some adaptation options may pose a risk to resource efficiency, for example, through waste from product packaging or excessive water use. **Mitigation Plan:** Activities will be screened, and mitigation plans will be developed in accordance with the ESIA guidelines. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 13: *Public Health*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low The project is not expected to have a negative impact on public health. In fact, many of the implemented solutions (better water access, food security, and livelihood diversification) could enhance climate resilience and improve public health outcomes. However, activities like pesticide use restricted to WHO Class III and below ((excluding Classes Ia, Ib and II), water body creation, and agro-processing waste may have public health implications. **Mitigation Plan:** The ESMP will include health safeguards, pesticide stewardship protocols, waste management standards, and mosquito control measures to protect public health during the project's implementation. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 14: *Physical and Cultural Heritage*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low It is not expected that any of the activities will affect cultural or physical heritage sites. The project area includes Ouidah, a Vodun cultural site and a UNESCO-recognized historic city, as well as the Mono Biosphere Reserve, both of which hold cultural and ecological importance. **Mitigation Plan:** Precautionary measures and screening will be carried out during the project's implementation. to ensure that sub-projects in or near heritage sites do not cause adverse effects. All subprojects will be assessed for potential cultural and ecological impacts before approval. **Further assessment required.**
Principle 15: *Lands and Soil Conservation*		**Risk:** Low **Potential impact:** Low The project promotes adaptation options designed to enhance land productivity and reduce degradation. Soil and land use are key elements of land-based activities. **Mitigation Plan:** Soil-related impacts will be incorporated into the ESIA to ensure project benefits are maintained and to assess land use sustainability. Continuous monitoring will track land productivity, soil health, and sustainable land-use practices during project implementation to prevent soil degradation and promote long-term land conservation. **Further assessment required.**

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A – Alignment with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework

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

Table 8: Alignment with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework

Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Outcome	Adaptation Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1.1: Enhanced and sustained technical and organizational capacities of local actors engaged in ecosystem restoration and the development of crop, livestock, and aquaculture to design and implement LLA initiatives.	Number of local actors in crop, livestock and fisheries value chains with strengthened capacity to design and implement climate-resilient adaptation initiatives (disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups).	**Outcome 6:** Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	**Indicator 6A:** People adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood practices (# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups)	109,600
Outcome 1.2: Strengthened capacities of the CCLC and local institutions to identify, support, and monitor LLA subprojects that restore ecosystems and promote climate-resilient agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chains through inclusive and sustainable local governance.	Number of local and sectoral institutions with strengthened capacity to manage LLA initiatives (disaggregated by scale).	**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)	816,800
Outcome 2.1: AF resources are mobilized through the FNEC to the CCLC to benefit vulnerable communities through ecosystem restoration and agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture value chain development.	Number of local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality.	**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)	18,000
Outcome 2.2: The resilience of the livelihoods of vulnerable actors in ecosystem restoration and the development of crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains is strengthened through the implementation of LLA initiatives funded by the Adaptation Fund.	Number of hectares of degraded ecosystems (e.g., mangroves, riverbanks, and lagoon zones) restored through funded sub-projects.	**Outcome 5:** Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	**Indicator 5 (Core Indicator 4):** Ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management in response to climate variability and change (# of hectares, disaggregated by type of ecosystem / natural resource area and by protection, restoration, and management)	1,520,000
	Number of households with increased income, or avoided decrease in income, through funded LLA sub-projects (disaggregated by female-headed households).	**Outcome 6:** Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	**Indicator 6B (Core Indicator 5):** Households with increased income, or avoided decrease in income (# of households, disaggregated by female-headed households)	1,520,000
Outcome 3.1: Local governance of LLA initiatives is sustainably reinforced, and effective mechanisms for mobilizing additional resources are established to ensure sustainability and scale-up of project achievements.	1. Participatory MEAL system, based on disaggregated SMART indicators, established and operational; 2. Number of additional financing partnerships or sources mobilized.	**Outcome 3:** Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3B:** People implementing new or improved adaptation actions (# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups)	60,000
Outcome 3.2: Knowledge management is strengthened, and lessons learned, as well as best practices for adaptation, are documented, capitalized, and inclusively disseminated to promote learning, replication, and scaling up of climate change adaptation actions.	Number of climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders.	**Outcome 3:** Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3A:** People with strengthened awareness of climate change risks and how to better address them (# of people, disaggregated by sex, by vulnerable groups, and by sector)	120,000
Overall project	Number of climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders.	**Outcome 3:** Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3A:** People with strengthened awareness of climate change risks and how to better address them (# of people, disaggregated by sex, by vulnerable groups, and by sector)	--
			Total outcome level grant amount	**4,164,400**

Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Adaptation Fund Output	Adaptation Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Output 1.1: An assessment report on adaptation practices, needs and capacity gaps produced; eligibility criteria and menu refined; training modules developed; capacity-building sessions delivered; and community-driven LLA initiatives designed.	1. Number of training modules and capacity-building sessions delivered to ecosystem restoration actors and value chain stakeholders; 2. Percentage of trained local actors able to independently formulate an eligible LLA sub-project.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups)	109,600
Output 1.2: A capacity needs assessment report for the CCLC and local institutions produced; a structured training plan developed; institutional capacity-building workshops conducted; and 25 facilitators recruited and trained.	1. Number of institutional capacity-building workshops conducted for the CCLC and local institutions; 2. Number of CCLC facilitators recruited, trained and deployed across the five municipalities.	**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)	816,800

Output 2.1: 01 revised procedures manual; 01 signed agreement between the FNEC and the CCLC; 01 fund transfer equivalent to the planned annual amount implemented.	1. Existence of a signed FNEC–CCLC agreement and a validated, revised procedures manual; 2. Annual fund transfer executed in compliance with AF fiduciary standards.	**Output 2.2:** Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and programme adaptation finance	**Indicator 2.2:** Local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality (# of institutions)	18,000
Output 2.2: 40 local climate change adaptation initiatives selected; 01 annual evaluation report.	Number of hectares of degraded ecosystems restored through funded sub-projects.	**Output 5.1:** Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	**Indicator 5.1:** Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management (# of resources, disaggregated by type of ecosystem / natural resource area and by protection, restoration, and management)	1,520,000
	Number of LLA sub-projects funded and implemented across the five municipalities.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (# of people, disaggregated by sex and by vulnerable groups)	1,520,000
Output 3.1: 01 participatory and inclusive MEAL system established; 01 sustainable financing mobilization mechanism available.	1. Participatory MEAL system operational; number of additional financing partnerships or sources mobilized for the sustainability of LLA initiatives.	**Output 3.3:** Increased ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3.3:** Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed, and/or implemented (# of local institutions and/or communities, disaggregated by institutions and communities)	60,000
Output 3.2: 01 toolkit synthesizing best practices; 05 exchange visits; 05 experience-sharing workshops; the FNEC website disseminating lessons learned; 02 information dissemination systems strengthened.	1. Number of exchange visits and experience-sharing workshops organized at municipal, national and regional levels; 2. CCLC digital platform, interoperable with the FNEC platform, developed and operational.	**Output 3.2:** Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	**Indicator 3.2:** Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders (# of products/tools, by sector)	120,000
Total output level grant amount				**4,164,400**

Note: The 50/50 allocation of the USD 3,040,000 budget under Outcome/Output 2.2, between Fund Outcome 5 (Ecosystems) and Fund Outcome 6 (Livelihoods), will be further refined during the development of the full project proposal and its annexes.

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[2]

Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:

(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)	Date*: (Month, day, year)*

B. Implementing Entity certification

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

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (National Development Plan (NDP 2026-2035), The National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP) ; Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 2026-2035) ; Law No. 2018-10 of July 2, 2018 on the protection, development and enhancement of the coastal zone in the Republic of Benin, and National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender 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.

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

Name & Signature Implementing Entity Coordinator  Dr Appolinaire D. GNANVI General Director	
Date: May,13, 2026	Tel. +2290197192464 and email: gnanviappolinaire@yahoo.fr
Project Contact Person:	**Fortunée DOSSOU WOROU** Director of Financial Resource Mobilization
Tel. +2290195966314 and Email: ellidos@yahoo.fr	

Appendix 1: Letter of endorsement from the AND

MINISTÈRE DU CADRE DE VIE
ET DES TRANSPORTS
EN CHARGE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
RÉPUBLIQUE DU BÉNIN

01 BP 3502 - 01 BP3621 Cotonou
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mcvt.info@gouv.bj
www.cadredevie.gouv.bj

ADAPTATION FUND

Direction Générale de l'Environnement et du Climat

Cotonou, le 04 JAN 2026

N° 0004**/DGEC/MCVT/PF-CC/SD**

Letter of Endorsement by Benin Government

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

Subject: Endorsement of Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Coastal Lagoons Inter-Municipal Community.

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

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project concept note with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by National Fund for Environment and climate and executed by national executing entity.

Sincerely,

Le Directeur Général

M. Ibila DJIBRIL,
Director General for Environment and Climate,
Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund.

Appendix 2: List of participants in stakeholder consultations

Appendix 2.1: List of participants in phase 1: *Consultation with municipal authorities and technical cadres (February 2025)*



Appendix 2.2: List of participants in phase 2: *Community beneficiary consultations (April 2025)*

Appendix 2.2.1: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Ouidah



Appendix 2.2.2: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Kpomassè



Appendix 2.2.3: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Comè



Appendix 2.2.4: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Grand-Popo



Appendix 2.2.5: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Abomey-Calavi



Appendix 2.3: List of participants in phase 3: *Validation workshop (December 2025)*



Appendix 3: Eligibility menu for adaptation subprojects and exclusion list

Appendix 3.1: Eligibility menu for adaptation subprojects

Nº	Action	Practical example
1	Adapted agriculture and aquaculture and soil protection	- Integrated management of agricultural and aquaculture resources. - Permaculture applied in cottage gardens or market gardens with small-scale manual mechanization. - Use of organic fertilizers and other organic inputs for soil fertility management. - Testing of conservation agriculture, anti-erosion practices and use of cover plants on small plots.
2	Development and promoting micro-irrigation through solar-powered pumping equipment	- Installation of gravity-fed irrigation systems, at small-scale and small farming levels, including drip irrigation and shallow wells. - Establishment of small-scale irrigated garden perimeters.
3	Climate-adapted agricultural, small-scale farming, and aquaculture practices	- Growing off-season crops and resistant, short-cycle and less water-intensive seed varieties. - Testing of crop rotation, crop association for pest and invasive species control, intercropping for greater yield, integrated farming (crop-livestock-forestry) on small/communal level plots. - Development of the processing value chain for cereals and vegetable crops. - Development of the marketing and commercialization value chain for cereals and vegetable crops. - Promotion of innovative and climate-smart preventive pest and invasive species management methods - Procurement, installation, and management of low-carbon post-harvest handling and storage equipment
4	Sustainable management of natural forests and improved reforestation efforts	- Rationalize non-timber forest resource exploitation and promote sustainable development of non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains. - Promotion of alterative income generating activities for livelihood diversification and decreasing pressure on forest ecosystems. - Promotion of state and communal plantations. - Secure the boundaries of state/community forest estates. - Making forest management committees operational to rationalize resource use. - Annual restoration of 50 hectares of mangrove forest ecosystems within the CCLC transboundary landscape.
5	Dissemination of improved practices for the management of degraded lands	- Restoration of degraded areas to provide grazing areas that also offer ecosystem services such as water retention, reduced soil erosion and flood protection. - Restoration of gallery forests and degraded land through tree planting. - Extension of sustainable land management technologies.
6	Implementation of adapted agroforestry and marine practices	- Planting fruit trees following good practices for conservation of local biodiversity and compliance to national legislation. - Awareness-raising for the protection of migratory birds in the Mono Biosphere Reserve and other protected areas of the CCLC. - Biomonitoring: Ecological monitoring of the Reserve's conservation values (sea turtles, mangroves, birds, manatees, primates, cetaceans, fish, etc.). - Awareness-raising among public and private stakeholders for the conservation of marine and coastal species (sea turtles, monkeys, crocodiles, African manatee, etc.).
7	Forest fire prevention and control measures	- Installation of firewalls - following good practices for conservation of local biodiversity and compliance to national legislation, and their maintenance with small livestock (usually goats).
8	Development of resilient community water points	- Development of community water points for the watering of animals (non-human use) < 20 linear or less than 100 m2.
9	Maintanence of shallows and water points	- Reforestation of riverbanks and shallows to provide shade and reduce wind-related water losses.
10	House modifications to optimize water intake	- Acquisition and installation of prefabricated water storage with no additional footprint at small-scale and village level.
11	Active land management to optimize water intake	- Acquisition and installation of prefabricated modern water storage infrastructures where no activities will be carried out within protected areas or areas with high ecological or archeological added value and where waste and wastewater will not be an issue. These interventions involve capturing rainwater in the fields by modifying the way in which the soil is used, following contour lines. - Construction of longitudinal trenches to promote water infiltration on sloping land - Use of stone barriers - Construction of terraces
12	Promotion of the efficient use of wood energy and access to alternative energies as part of or in support of adaptation interventions and/or aims (mitigation co-benefits)	- Promoting access to electricity in the areas, promoting access to improved stoves, cooking and processing equipment (e.g. solar), promoting access to butane gas, densification of agricultural residues and waste into briquettes by using small manual machines, windrow composting.
13	Promote and develop renewable energies as part of or in support of adaptation interventions and/or aims (mitigation co-benefits)	Solar energy catchment area. All interventions need to be small-scale infrastructure and or rural energy, within an already built-up area and with no additional footprint such pico-to-micro-scale renewable energy, retrofit renewable energy systems and energy efficiency and conservation.
14	Protection of the living environment and sustainable environmental management	- Establishment of nurseries of local indigenous plant species (including Mangrove species). - Establishment of nurseries for native plant species (including mangroves in mangrove forests) One nursery per district established At least 10,000 plants produced annually Activity reports and minutes of acceptance of work for the establishment of plant nurseries.
15	Implementation of coastal and riverine protection investments	- Protection of coastal and riverine ecosystems (community-level management actions and training, reforestation based on good practices; no negative impacts on habitat, cleaning coastal lakes and lagoons). - Ecosystem-based adaptation measures, where river basins, aquifers, flood plains and their vegetation are managed to provide water storage and regulate floods.

Appendix 3.2: Exclusion list

SECTOR	ACTIVITY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Agriculture	Adapted agriculture and aquaculture and soil protection	- Land clearing, pesticide use, aerial and ground spraying operations > 10 ha
		Introduction of pesticides not approved by the government; use of pesticides classified by the World Health Organization in hazard classes Ia (extremely hazardous), Ib (highly hazardous or II (moderately hazardous), only Class III (slightly hazardous) and Class U products are eligible.
	Development and promoting micro-irrigation through solar-powered pumping equipment	- Irrigation project >100,000 m²
		- Construction of Wells: > 30 cm diameter and 1 km length
		- Groundwater pumping: >500 cubic feet per day
Climate-adapted forestry	Climate-adapted agricultural, market gardening and fish farming practices	- Livestock farming: poultry, sheep, goats, cattle and pigs
		- Silviculture: reforestation operations and/or silvicultural treatments > 100 ha
		- Classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody materials, including roads, tracks and camps
		- Introduction of invasive or government-unapproved crops
		- Pest and invasive species control: use of pesticides >10 ha - Use of pesticides classified by the World Health Organization in hazard categories Ia (extremely hazardous) and Ib (highly hazardous); or Class II (moderately hazardous), only Class III (slightly hazardous) and Class U products are eligible.
	Sustainable management of natural forests and enhancement of reforestation efforts	- Reforestation operations and/or silvicultural treatments > 100 ha
		- Classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody materials, including roads, tracks and camps
		- Any activity entailing involuntary resettlement or land acquisition (including non-physical displacement and involuntary restrictions imposed on economic activities and land use)
		- Reforestation with invasive species, including genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
		- Activities likely to lead to unsustainable exploitation of indigenous tree species
		- Clearing of vegetation for conversion to agricultural land
Agroforestry	Dissemination of improved practices for the management of degraded lands	- Forestry: reforestation operations and/or silvicultural treatments > 100 ha
		- Classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody materials, including roads, tracks and camps
	Implementation of adapted agroforestry practices	- Forestry: reforestation operations and/or silvicultural treatments > 100 ha
		- Classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody materials, including roads, tracks and camps
	Ecosystem conservation-based management and adaptation of grazing areas	- Any activity that will result in an increase in the use of agrochemical products
	Forest fire prevention and control measures	- Forestry: reforestation operations and/or silvicultural treatments > 100 ha
		- Classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody materials, including roads, tracks and camps < 100 ha
Water	Development of resilient community water points	- Dredging, excavation, backfilling or embankment (> 20 linear meters or more than 100 m²)
	Maintenance of lowland areas and water points	- Development of deltaic or lagoonal zones
	Household-level modifications to optimise water consumption	- Activities involving water extraction, such as well drilling and development of water points for human use Deep drilling for water supply with a flow rate of 500 m³/day
	Active land management to optimise water intake	- Dredging, excavation, backfilling or embankment (> 20 linear metres or more than 100 m²)
		- Activities involving well drilling
		- Construction of reservoirs and catchment basins with additional land footprint
Energies	Energy	- Industrial installation intended for the production of energy or steam
		- Rehabilitation or construction of dams
		- Water management: Community basins for irrigation/livestock > 20 m³ in volume
		- Water management: Water reservoirs for irrigation/livestock with a volume > 20 m³
		- Household-level solar energy capture zones
Infrastructure	Construction of resilient public facilities and infrastructure	Construction of walled or covered structures
		Construction of infrastructure with a new or additional land footprint
Protection of coastal and riverine areas	Implementation of investments in the protection of coastal and riverine areas	Construction of coastal protection structures (groynes, breakwaters, etc.)
		Any activity that promotes soil degradation and erosion, or disturbance of ecosystems
Other	Loans to members of the administration and municipal representatives	
	Loans to private enterprises or associations	
	Financing of commercial and/or private activities	
	Municipal salaries and operating costs (offices, transport, office equipment and works)	
	Religious activities	
	Guarantees	
	Any activity likely to result in the involuntary displacement of persons	
	Any other activity which, upon implementation, would entail medium or high environmental or social risks, in accordance with the risk analysis set out in the GCF action plan	
	All drainage works	

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

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

1st Submission Date: May, 13, 2026
2nd Submission Date: June, 26, 2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID:
Country/ies: BENIN
Title of Project/Programme: Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes
Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): NIE
Implementing Entity: Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat (FNEC) [National Fund for Environment and Climate (FNEC)]
Executing Entity/ies: Communauté des Communes des Lagunes Côtières du Bénin (CCLC) [Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC)]

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	September 2026
Completion date of PFG	March 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

1 – Total Project Formulation Grant

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[2]
1.1. Feasibility studies, vulnerability assessment, and LLA project design support	1.1.1. Climate risk, vulnerability and impact assessment of Ecosystems and Crop, Livestock, and Fisheries Value Chains in the CCLC 1.1.2. Co-development of LLA sub-project application and evaluation templates, selection criteria and proportionate due diligence 1.1.3. Preliminary technical and economic feasibility assessment of priority adaptation investments	45,000	Includes consultant time, data collection, analysis, GIS mapping, and validation workshops

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

1.2. Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and risk assessment (including FPIC, gender/social assessment, legal review)	2.1. ESMS/ESIA and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) 2.2. Environmental and Social Framework for Unidentified Sub-Projects	33,000	Covers consultant time for ESMS/ESIA and safeguards screening; field visits, workshops for FPIC and social inclusion, legal review (local expert input), translation, and reporting
1.3. Stakeholder engagement and participatory planning	1.3.1. Stakeholder mapping 1.3.2. Co-identified local priorities for adaptation 1.3.3. Co-development of local decision-making frameworks clarifying local decision-making and risk management roles	20,000	Covers expert/consultant time for stakeholder mapping and decision-making frameworks for local actors, stakeholders' consultations
1. 4. Drafting full project proposal	Comprehensive proposal addressing Secretariat comments	40,000	Covers expert/consultant time for drafting, stakeholder review meetings, internal quality assurance
Sub-total		**138,000**	
Implementing Entity management fee (8,5%		**11,730**	
Total Project Formulation Grant		**149,730**	

1.1. Feasibility studies, vulnerability assessment, and LLA project design support (45,000 USD)

This activity will produce the technical evidence needed to design a robust Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) project for the CCLC. The assessment will examine climate risks, vulnerabilities, and projected impacts on ecosystems and on crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains across the 5 Communes. Special focus will be given to vulnerable groups, including women, youth, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and fishing communities. The assessment will identify priority adaptation needs and opportunities to enhance resilient livelihoods, providing a solid evidence base for project development.

Based on these findings, the activity will support the participatory development of a LLA sub-project mechanism. This mechanism will include application and evaluation templates, eligibility and selection criteria, and proportionate due diligence procedures. Created with input from local stakeholders, these tools will ensure community-led adaptation investments are transparent, inclusive, responsive to local priorities, and fully aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Locally Led Adaptation requirements. This activity will produce two key outputs.

- ***Output 1.1.1: Climate risk, vulnerability and impact assessment of Ecosystems and Crop, Livestock, and Fisheries Value Chains in the CCLC***

This output will deliver a thorough assessment of the climate risks and vulnerabilities impacting ecosystems, as well as the expected effects on crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains across the CCLC. The assessment will identify priority adaptation needs and climate-resilient livelihood opportunities. It will also emphasize the vulnerabilities of women, youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other at-risk groups. These findings will guide the design of locally led adaptation strategies and investment priorities for the upcoming Adaptation Fund project.

- ***Output 1.1.2: Co-development of LLA sub-project application and evaluation templates, selection criteria, and proportionate due diligence***

This output will establish the operational framework for the future LLA sub-project mechanism. This will be achieved by co-developing user-friendly applications and evaluation templates, transparent selection criteria, and proportionate due diligence procedures. These tools will be created through a participatory process involving the CCLC, local authorities, community organizations, and representatives of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. This process will ensure that the financing mechanism is transparent, inclusive, accessible, and aligned with the Adaptation Fund's fiduciary, environmental, social, gender, and Locally Led Adaptation requirements. This output will provide communities with the practical foundation to identify, design, and implement locally led adaptation subprojects under future Adaptation Fund investments.

Two main deliverables will be provided:

- ***Deliverable 1*: *Climate risk, vulnerability, and impact assessment report*:** this report will include climate risk profiles of the 5 Communes of CCLC, analyses of ecosystem and value chain vulnerabilities, differentiated impacts on vulnerable groups, and evidence-based recommendations to inform the design and prioritization of locally led adaptation investments.
- ***Deliverable 2: Sub-project mechanism operational design package***, including application and evaluation templates, eligibility and selection procedures, and proportionate due diligence arrangements for community-led adaptation subprojects.

1.2. Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and risk assessment (including FPIC, gender/social assessment, legal review) (33,000 USD)

This activity will establish the environmental and social safeguards framework required for preparing the future LLA project, ensuring full compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy. It will evaluate potential environmental, social, gender, legal, and institutional risks related to the proposed interventions. Additionally, it will develop the systems, procedures, and safeguard tools required to manage future Unidentified Sub-Projects (USP). Special focus will be placed on gender equality, social inclusion, stakeholder engagement, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), grievance redress, and adherence to national laws and Adaptation Fund standards.

- ***Output 1.2.1: Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) / Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)***

This output will deliver an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). These documents will incorporate gender and social inclusion considerations, legal and institutional assessments, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), where applicable, and risk mitigation measures proportionate to the project's expected environmental and social risks.

- ***Output 1.2.2: Environmental and Social Framework for Unidentified Sub-Projects***

This output will establish the environmental and social screening and management framework needed for Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs). This framework will include eligibility and screening processes, risk categorization, proportionate safeguard tools, disclosure and grievance redress mechanisms, and implementation procedures. These procedures will ensure that all future community-led adaptation USPs meet the requirements of the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and USP standards.

Two main deliverables will be provided:

- ***Deliverable 3: Environmental and Social Safeguards Package***, including the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), the

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), the Gender and Social Inclusion Assessment, a legal and institutional review, a Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) assessment (where applicable), and risk mitigation measures.

- ***Deliverable 4: USP Environmental and Social Framework***, including screening and risk categorization procedures, proportionate safeguard instruments, disclosure and stakeholder engagement procedures, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and implementation arrangements for future unidentified, Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) subprojects in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.

1.3. Stakeholder Engagement and Participatory Planning (20,000 USD)

This activity ensures that the future LLA project will be co-designed through an inclusive, participatory process. This process will involve the CCLC, local authorities, decentralized technical services, community organizations, traditional leaders, women's organizations, youth associations, disability rights organizations, local NGOs, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders. Based on stakeholder mapping, consultations will be conducted in each of the 5 Communes to identify locally defined adaptation priorities, validate proposed interventions, and strengthen local ownership of the upcoming project. Special attention will be given to achieving balanced participation (aiming for at least 40% women), removing barriers for vulnerable groups, and systematically disaggregating participants by sex, age, disability, and ethnicity. Stakeholder feedback will be explicitly documented and used to inform project decisions, including the eligibility criteria, sub-project selection, environmental and social management measures, and local decision-making arrangements. These decisions will align with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, Gender Policy, and USP requirements.

- ***Output 1.3.1: Stakeholder mapping***

This output identifies and examines all relevant stakeholders, including their roles, interests, capacities, and influence. It develops an inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure active participation throughout project preparation and implementation.

- ***Output 1.3.2: Co-identified local priorities for adaptation***

This output will document community-defined adaptation priorities through inclusive consultations across the five municipalities. It will also ensure that stakeholder recommendations directly inform the project's investment priorities, eligibility criteria, and environmental and social management measures.

- ***Output 1.3.3: Co-development of local decision-making frameworks***

This output will create transparent local governance structures that define the roles and responsibilities of the CCLC, local authorities, communities, and other stakeholders in planning, prioritizing, implementing, and supervising community-led adaptation investments.

Three main deliverables will be provided:

- ***Deliverable 5: Stakeholder mapping and engagement report***, including a stakeholder analysis, an inclusive engagement strategy, and a participation plan for women, youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other vulnerable groups.
- ***Deliverable 6: Participatory adaptation priorities report***, documenting community-defined priorities and stakeholder recommendations to be integrated into the project's eligibility menu, sub-project selection criteria, and environmental and social management measures.
- ***Deliverable 7: Local decision-making and governance framework***, defining institutional roles, participation mechanisms, and governance arrangements for the future CCLC sub-project mechanism.

1.4. Drafting full project proposal (40,000 USD)

This activity will compile the results of all previous activities into a comprehensive, high-quality funding proposal to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund. The proposal will include the results of feasibility studies, stakeholder consultations, environmental and social assessments, governance arrangements, and technical guidance developed during the PFG process. It will also ensure that all technical annexes, the budget, the results framework, the implementation arrangements, and supporting documentation meet the Adaptation Fund's requirements, including those applicable to Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and Unidentified Sub-Projects (USP). A main deliverable of this activity is:

- ***Deliverable 8: Complete Adaptation Fund Funding Proposal package***, including the Funding Proposal and all required annexes, technical studies, safeguard instruments, implementation arrangements, budget, results framework, and supporting documents, ready for submission to the Adaptation Fund.

1.5 Justification for PFG funding (149,730 USD)

The requested Project Formulation Grant (PFG) of $US149,730 is crucial to preparing a high-quality, fully compliant funding proposal for submission to the Adaptation Fund under its Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) window. The project will establish a decentralized financing mechanism through the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), an intermunicipal public cooperation authority comprising the five Communes of Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, Kpomassè, Comè, and Grand-Popo, to directly channel Adaptation Fund resources to locally led adaptation initiatives. Due to the innovative nature of this financing mechanism and the use of Unidentified Sub-Projects (USP), substantial preparatory work is essential to ensure technical robustness, institutional readiness, environmental and social compliance, and effective decentralized decision-making.

The PFG will finance the technical, environmental, social, institutional, and participatory work required to create an investment-ready proposal. This includes: (i) climate risk, vulnerability, and impact assessments of ecosystems and crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains; (ii) co-design of the CCLC LLA sub-project mechanism, including application procedures, selection criteria, and due diligence arrangements; (iii) preparation of the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for Unidentified Sub-Projects, as well as the safeguards framework; (iv) inclusive stakeholder engagement and participatory planning to identify locally defined adaptation priorities and governance arrangements; (v) development of technical standards and implementation guidelines for priority adaptation interventions; (vi) design of a community-led Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system; and (vii) preparation of the complete Adaptation Fund Funding Proposal and all supporting annexes.

The requested funding will enhance the institutional capacity of the CCLC and its partners, enabling them to implement the principles of Locally Led Adaptation. This will be accomplished by helping communities to identify, prioritize, design, and manage adaptation investments. There will be a special focus on ensuring meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, all while adhering to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, Gender Policy, and USP requirements.

Therefore, the requested amount is entirely justified by the scope and complexity of the preparatory activities needed to establish a transparent, inclusive, and technically sound financing mechanism, as well as to produce an implementation-ready, evidence-based Funding Proposal capable of mobilizing Adaptation Fund resources for locally led adaptation in the CCLC.

2 – LLA Supplemental Project Formulation Grant

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US$ Amount	Budget note[3]
2.1. Development of technical guidance and implementation guidelines for priority adaptation interventions	2.1.1 Validated eligibility menu and exclusion list for adaptation subprojects 2.1.2. Practical technical guidelines for ecosystem restoration and climate-resilient crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains 2.1.3. Technical specifications and minimum quality requirements for priority adaptation investments	45,000	Covers specialist consultants, validation workhops, field-based verification and design of user-friendly materials
2.2. Development of Community-Led Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) Systems	2.2.1. Community-led MRV framework and tools for LLA developed and operational	30,000	Covers expert/consultant time for designing, stakeholder review meetings, internal quality assurance
Sub-total additional budget		**75,000**	
Implementing Entity management fee (8,5%		**6,375**	
Total additional budget		**81,375**	

2.1. Development of technical guidance and implementation guidelines for priority adaptation interventions

This activity will develop the technical guidance needed to design, evaluate, and implement priority adaptation investments under the upcoming CCLC sub-project mechanism. Using vulnerability assessments, stakeholder consultations, and an environmental and social safeguards framework, the activity will provide practical guidance, eligibility criteria, and technical specifications. These will ensure that future locally led adaptation investments are climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable, and aligned with national policies and Adaptation Fund requirements.

- ***Output 2.1.1: Validated eligibility menu and exclusion list for adaptation LLA sub-projects***

This output will review the types of adaptation interventions eligible for financing under the future LLA sub-project mechanism (Appendix 3.1). It also establishes an exclusion list (Appendix 3.2)to ensure consistency with the project's objectives, national regulations, and the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.

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

- ***Output 2.1.2: Practical technical guidelines for ecosystem restoration and climate-resilient crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains***

This output will provide practical guidance to support the design and implementation of ecosystem restoration and climate-resilient investments across crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains. This guidance will promote locally appropriate and sustainable adaptation practices.

- ***Output 2.1.3: Technical specifications and minimum quality requirements for priority adaptation investments***

This output will establish technical specifications and minimum quality standards to guide the development and execution of priority adaptation investments, fostering consistency, quality, and long-term resilience across community-led subprojects. The main deliverable will be:

- ***Deliverable 8: Technical guidance package for Locally Led Adaptation sub-projects***, including the validated eligibility menu and exclusion list, practical technical guidance, and technical specifications and quality standards for priority adaptation interventions.

2.2. Development of Community-Led Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) Systems

This activity will establish a community-led Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system to support learning, adaptive management, transparency, and accountability throughout the future LLA project. Based on the participatory planning process and CCLC governance arrangements, this activity will develop a practical framework and user-friendly tools. These tools will enable communities, local authorities, and the CCLC to monitor adaptation investments, document results and lessons learned, and enhance evidence-based decision-making. The system will align with the Adaptation Fund's results framework, encouraging meaningful community participation, continuous learning, and knowledge sharing.

- ***Output 2.2.1: Community-led MRV framework and tools for LLA developed and operational***

This project will create a community-led MRV framework along with practical tools for monitoring, reporting, learning, and verification. These tools will help communities and local institutions track the progress and outcomes of adaptation investments, support adaptive management, and produce evidence to guide project implementation, replication, and expansion. The main deliverable will be:

- *Community-led MRV Framework and Operational Toolkit***,** including indicators, monitoring and reporting tools, community feedback and learning mechanisms, roles and responsibilities, and practical guidance for tracking, documenting, and communicating the results of locally led adaptation investments.

2.3 Justification for LLA Supplemental Project Formulation Grant (81,375 USD)

The requested USD 81,375 for the LLA Supplemental Project Formulation Grant will support activities essential for implementing the principles of Locally Led Adaptation within the upcoming Adaptation Fund project. The supplemental funding will support the development of technical guidance, operational tools, and community-led monitoring systems. These systems will allow the CCLC and local stakeholders to design, implement, monitor, and expand community-led adaptation investments effectively.

Specifically, the grant will support the development of a Technical Guidance Package for future LLAs, including a validated eligibility menu and exclusion list, practical technical guidance for ecosystem restoration, and technical specifications along with minimum quality standards for climate-resilient crop, livestock, and fisheries value chains. These tools will ensure that community-led investments remain consistent, climate-resilient, environmentally sustainable, and fully aligned with national policies and the Adaptation Fund's requirements by providing a common technical reference.

The supplemental grant will also fund the development of a community-led MRV framework and operational toolkit. This system will enable communities, local authorities, and the CCLC to track adaptation

investments, document outcomes and lessons learned, enhance accountability, and support adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making. The MRV system will encourage continuous learning and community ownership, helping to replicate and expand successful, locally led adaptation practices.

Therefore, the requested supplemental funding is entirely justified. It will create technical standards, operational guidance, and community-led monitoring systems specific to the LLA approach. These systems are crucial for implementing a transparent, high-quality, and scalable community-led adaptation program through the CCLC.

C. Implementing Entity

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

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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MINISTERE DU CADRE DE VIE
ET DES TRANSPORTS
EN CHARGE DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN

MINISTERE DE LA
DECENTRALISATION ET DE
LA GOUVERNANCE LOCALE
REPUBLIQUE DU
DEPARTEMENTS DU MONO ET DE L'A
COMMUNAUTE DE COMMU
LAGUNES COTIERES

Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Coastal Lagoons Inter-Municipal Community



Consultation report of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) within the framework of *the preparation of a Concept Note and an EDA funding proposal*

March 2025

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADELAC	:	Agency for the Integrated Development of the Lake Ahémé Economic Zone and its Channels
AND	:	Designated National Authority
CCLC	:	Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes
CCNUCC	:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CND	:	Nationally Determined Contributions
DSI	:	Director of Intercommunal Services
EDA	:	Enhanced Direct Access
FA	:	Adaptation Fund
FNEC	:	National Fund for the Environment and the Climate
FVC	:	Green Climate Fund
GES	:	Greenhouse Gases (GHG)
NC	:	Concept Note
PF	:	Funding Proposal
PNA	:	National Adaptation Plan
PRCC-CCLS	:	Programme de résilience aux changements climatiques des populations vulnérables de la Communauté des Communes des Lagunes Côtières du Bénin
TdR	:	Terms of Reference

1 – Background

Climate change is a major challenge for global socio-economic development, jeopardising the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because of its growing impacts on populations and economies. Benin, like other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, is particularly vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, prolonged dry spells, violent winds, coastal erosion and sea-level rise. This vulnerability, compounded by poverty, is documented in several national strategic frameworks, notably the Nationally Determined Contributions (CND), the National Adaptation Plan (PNA) and the National Low-Carbon Development Strategy (2016-2025). A review of these documents identifies eight (08) key sectors requiring adaptation measures: agriculture, water resources, energy, health, infrastructure and urban development, tourism, forestry and the coastline.

For several years, Benin has been implementing concrete actions to meet the challenges posed by climate change. However, despite the efforts made, the country struggles to combat the adverse effects of climate change effectively, owing to a lack of the financial resources and technical capacities needed to turn the promising ideas and initiatives contained in the above-mentioned climate management documents into bankable projects.

In order to address the challenges of mobilising climate finance, the National Fund for the Environment and the Climate (FNEC) was created. It is the first national mechanism for financing programmes and projects aimed at protecting and rationally managing the environment, combating the adverse effects of climate change and promoting sustainable development in the Republic of Benin. To carry out this mission, the FNEC has been accredited as a national implementing entity for projects of the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

To respond to the impacts of climate change felt by the communes of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), the project « Projet de résilience aux changements climatiques des populations vulnérables de la Communauté de Communes des Lagunes Côtières du Bénin (PRCC-CCLC) » is proposed to the National Fund for the Environment and the Climate (FNEC) to be submitted for financing by the Adaptation Fund. To this end, the FNEC has recruited a consultant to support this CCLC initiative in finalising its project. This initiative begins with a stakeholder consultation, an essential process that engages the various parties concerned in the decision-making and planning of this project. It fosters inclusive governance and helps to identify the needs and expectations of stakeholders, which is crucial for developing appropriate solutions. It also makes it possible to assess their influence and their interests within the framework of this project.

To this end, the consultation of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) was carried out on 20 February 2025 at the CCLC headquarters in Grand-Popo. This step is very important in the process of preparing the Concept Note (NC) and the Funding Proposal (PF) to be submitted to the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) window[1].

This report summarises the main stages of the consultation of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), the main results obtained, the organisation of the consultation of all stakeholders and the next phases for finalising the concept note and the EDA funding proposal.

2 – Objectives of the consultation mission

The overall objective of the mission is to consult the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) in order to gather information essential to the preparation of the concept note and the EDA funding proposal by the FNEC for submission to the Adaptation Fund (AF), and to prepare the consultation of all stakeholders. Specifically, this involves:

- gathering the views of the local elected officials of the five (05) communes making up the CCLC and of the heads of the various decentralised structures, as well as their commitments to the preparation and implementation of the project;

[1] https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/acces-direct-ameliore-eda-french/, accessed on 12 March 2025.

- obtaining the data needed to establish a general overview of the impacts of climate change in the communes and the needs of the communities;
- identifying adaptation options for the populations and the CCLC in the face of climate change;
- collecting the information needed for the consultation of all stakeholders.

3 – Methodology for conducting the consultation

The consultation of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC was held in the CCLC meeting room in Grand-Popo and was coordinated by the FNEC consultant, Dr Alexandre ZOUNMENOU. It brought together representatives of the five (05) communes of the CCLC, staff of the decentralised structures, representatives of the FNEC and representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In total, this consultation was attended by twenty-six (26) people, including one (01) woman, two (02) persons with disabilities and two (02) young people (under 35 year old). The list of participants is provided in the annex to this report.

4 – Proceedings and results of the consultation

Upon arrival at 08:45, the delegation was received by the Director of Intercommunal Services (DSI) of the CCLC and his team, who saw the members of the delegation to the room set aside for the discussion session. After the arrival and settling in of the other participants, the session began at 10:05.

4.1 – Opening protocol and presentation of the mission context

4.1.1 – Opening protocol

The session was opened by Mr Marcellin ACCLOMBESSI, representing the Director General of the FNEC. The welcome address was delivered by Mr Roger FANOU, Municipal Councillor of Dèkanmè and representative of the President of the CCLC, who welcomed the various delegations and the participants. In his address, Mr FANOU expressed his gratitude to the delegation and, in particular, to the FNEC for the efforts made to support the CCLC in preparing the concept note and the EDA funding proposal. He specified that these two (02) documents concern a project intended to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund. This project aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate change in the five (05) communes making up the CCLC.

In his opening address, the representative of the Director General of the FNEC recalled the purpose of the stakeholder consultation, which is a necessary step in the process of preparing a concept note and a funding proposal for a project to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund. Before handing over to the two consultants, that of the CCLC and that of the FNEC, for the rest of the workshop, he also reminded the participants of the objective of this consultation, namely to collect information essential to the preparation of the two (02) documents, as well as to gather their views and contributions in order to draw up the questionnaire to be administered to the potential beneficiaries. This session also aims to schedule and organise the consultation of all stakeholders for the preparation of the project's concept note and EDA funding proposal. Finally, he urged the participants to be diligent and to contribute actively to the discussions.

The protocol ceremony ended with the introduction of the participants.

4.1.2 – Presentation of the context for preparing the NC and the PF

Mr Abdou Rachidi SALIOU ABOUDOU, the CCLC consultant, presented the context for preparing the project. The aim of his presentation was to set out the work already carried out since his recruitment by the CCLC within the framework of the Programme de résilience aux changements climatiques des populations vulnérables de la Communauté des Communes des Lagunes Côtières du Bénin (PRCC-CCLC), which benefits from the FNEC's support for finalising the concept note and the funding proposal. In addressing the context, he emphasised the climate change risks faced by the populations of the CCLC communes (flooding, drought, extreme heat, violent winds, water erosion of soils, silting, etc.), the geographical areas affected by flooding, flooded cropping areas (62 localities) and flooded access roads. Regarding the climate risks faced in the CCLC communes, his presentation noted that rainfall is scarce and that the short rainy season, when it occurs, is heavy, causing flooding. He also highlighted the poor distribution of rainfall, characterised by an irregularity that leads producers to lose control of the agricultural calendar. These risks have increased in recent years, and climate extremes (flooding and drought) have destroyed the various crops.

The floor was then given to the participants for their contributions, to ask questions and make suggestions. Overall, from the contributions, it can be noted that the risks mentioned must be specified for each commune, as they vary from one commune to another. A description of the climatic characteristics of each CCLC commune and of their vulnerabilities to climate change is essential in order to better direct the projects towards the various communities. Thus, to better identify the communes' climate problems, the town halls must be more closely involved. Likewise, the project must specify whether the entire ecosystem (fauna and flora) is taken into account.

The following photographs capture some of the notable moments of the presentation.





Following the presentation by the CCLC consultant, the question-and-answer session with the participants was opened and clarifications were provided on the various concerns.

4.2 – Results of the discussions with participants

The discussions were structured using an interview guide specially prepared for this purpose. This guide incorporates specific questions on the integration of the gender dimension. The discussions were led by the FNEC consultant's team, which reminded the participants, at the opening of the discussions, that the session was intended to collect from them information crucial to the preparation of the project documents and to facilitate the collection of key data within the framework of the consultation of all stakeholders. The team also specified to the participants that the views of the local elected officials, as well as their commitments, would be recorded verbatim and gathered through specific questions.

4.2.1 – Perception of climate change by local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures

The staff and local elected officials of the CCLC perceive climate change as a daily reality that is increasingly affecting their communities. According to them, 2024 was particularly striking because of the intensity of the drought, which caused streams to dry up and fishery resources to disappear. In some communes, notably Kpomassè, the drought caused crops to be destroyed by fires, thereby worsening the living conditions of farmers and fishers. Fishing conditions also deteriorated, with the near-absence of fishery products in 2024, thus threatening the incomes of local populations. The participants also underline the direct impacts on ecosystems, in particular wetlands, which are essential both for economic activities and for biodiversity.

The participants indicated that the effects of climate change vary from one commune to another within the CCLC. In Grand-Popo, drought has replaced the flooding that, for years, was the main consequence of climate change. This shift has caused water to recede, creating difficulties for local ecosystems, in particular the mangrove, which is under pressure from the harvesting of wood for cooking and other uses. In Ouidah, drought directly affects three main wetland activities: fishing, market gardening and salt production. The silting of the lakes in the Avlékété area, caused by flooding, has also led to population displacement, worsening the vulnerability of the inhabitants. In Comè, a degradation of the lowlands is observed, threatening fish species and the mangrove, whose destruction by local populations exacerbates the situation. The silting of Lake Ahémé has also disrupted economic activities and reduced biodiversity.

According to the representative of the Agency for the Integrated Development of the Lake Ahémé Economic Zone and its Channels (ADELAC), all the CCLC communes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Their aquatic ecosystems are severely threatened by the silting of watercourses, which reduces water depth and disrupts the vital conditions of fish species. This situation endangers the 76 fish species recorded in the region, most of which live in brackish water. The absence of short-cycle fish species, due to the salinity of the water, further complicates the situation, undermining the activities of the fishers. Faced with this threat, the local elected officials stress the urgency of adopting adaptation measures and implementing strategies to protect ecosystems and diversify the livelihoods of the populations.

4.2.2 – Recommended adaptation measures

Dredging appears to be a solution envisaged to mitigate the impacts of climate change, notably flooding and drought. In addition to dredging, the local elected officials and staff of the decentralised services proposed several adaptation measures to address the challenges of climate change and, above all, the degradation of aquatic ecosystems. Among the priorities identified, it is proposed to develop the beaches, which extend over approximately 41 km, to catalogue and preserve the traditional forests, and to create an ecology suited to fishery products. In order to promote the reproduction of oysters, it was proposed to build boxes specifically designed to be installed in the mangroves. In addition, the design of floating cages to enable fish farmers to maintain their activities despite the drought and to ensure food reserves was envisaged. The development of fish farming is also among the solutions proposed to support the activities of vulnerable populations.

Regarding the restoration of degraded ecosystems, several actions were put forward, such as the promotion of improved cookstoves and conservation reforestation. Safeguarding the sacred forests along Lake Ahémé, as well as the sacralisation of forests to reduce pressure on the mangroves, were identified as crucial priorities. The proposed project could support existing initiatives, such as the FAO Mangrove project and the Mangrove Carbon project currently under development. The dredging of lakes to restore threatened fish species was also mentioned, which would help to improve the living conditions of local populations while mitigating the effects of climate change.

The elected officials also suggested several measures to strengthen resilience to climate change and to support the economic activities of vulnerable populations. The project could include the promotion of short-cycle fishery products for fishers, as well as fish farming with species suited to brackish water. It was also proposed to encourage the reforestation of fast-growing species, such as sugar cane and plantain, in order to preserve the mangrove, which is under constant pressure from the populations. The dredging of existing biological reserve areas, together with their sacralisation to protect these vital spaces, is also among the solutions envisaged to preserve aquatic ecosystems and support the populations' activities. In short, the elected officials' proposals aim to address current challenges while ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources in the CCLC communes.

4.2.3 – Actions to consider for the success of the preparation process

To ensure the success of the process in the five communes, several specific actions were proposed by the elected officials and the representatives of the various structures. The Vice-President of the CCLC Tourism Commission, representing the President of the CCLC, stressed the importance of collaborating with ECO-BENIN to identify initiatives that could support the project. In the absence of direct initiatives by the CCLC, he insisted on the need to put in place a mechanism for monitoring and protecting the mangroves, which would be crucial to ensuring the sustainability of the project. This approach would aim to ensure that efforts to preserve aquatic ecosystems are monitored and that concrete actions are undertaken to protect vulnerable areas.

To raise awareness among the local population of the importance of resilience-strengthening initiatives and to secure their support, several strategies were proposed. It was suggested to draw on existing laws to encourage residents to comply with regulations, as is done by the PROSEL project in Ouidah, where awareness-raising is a central tool for promoting compliance with the texts. However, it was also noted that not all the texts are well known to the population. In addition, some proposed introducing punitive measures against practices that destroy the mangroves, in order to strengthen respect for the environment and discourage behaviour harmful to the sustainability of

ecosystems. These combined actions aim to ensure the effectiveness and durability of the project to be developed through an integrated approach of monitoring, education and regulation.

4.2.4 – Community needs according to local elected officials and staff of the decentralised services

For the local elected officials and staff of the decentralised services, the vulnerable communities of the communes sharing the lagoon express a crucial need to strengthen their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly with regard to the preservation of aquatic and forest ecosystems. They call for accessible and appropriate information on adaptation mechanisms, as well as financial and human resources to implement concrete actions. These actions include the protection of endangered fish species, such as the dredging of lakes to restore aquatic habitats and the establishment of secure breeding areas for fish and oysters. The communities also wish for support in the sustainable management of their forests, with reforestation projects, the protection of sacred forests and the implementation of forest conservation techniques adapted to each commune. Support for the creation of boxes in the mangroves to promote the reproduction of oysters and the establishment of systems for monitoring fishery resources is also requested in order to prevent the degradation of these vital ecosystems.

The local populations, in particular those of the coastal and marsh areas, also underline the need for support in integrating endogenous practices into modern strategies for managing natural resources. They insist on the importance of preserving practices such as the announcement of the seasons, which have long been used to adapt agricultural and fishing activities to climate variations. In addition, the communities wish for solutions to combat the pressure exerted on the mangroves and forests, notably through awareness-raising on the protection of these ecosystems and the promotion of improved cookstoves to reduce deforestation. They also call for appropriate reforestation projects, notably with fast-growing species such as sugar cane or plantain, to protect the mangrove. Finally, the communes' elected officials share a strong desire to coordinate their efforts through joint initiatives to strengthen collective resilience, notably by establishing intercommunal management committees, organising local training and creating mechanisms for the monitoring and shared management of natural resources to ensure the durability of the actions undertaken. These measures aim to ensure a more resilient and sustainable future in the face of the effects of climate change for the vulnerable communities of the lagoon region.

The summary presented above stems from the discussions with the local elected officials and staff of the decentralised services of the CCLC, some of whose contributions we reproduce verbatim below.

« Climate change has now become part of our habits, but the phenomenon most observed this year is drought. It has caused the streams to dry up, and fishery products are threatened. One solution is to carry out dredging ». **The elected officials of the commune of Grand-Popo present at the session, on 20 February 2025*.***

« We witnessed crops being burned this year during the normal season. Fishery products are almost non-existent this year, which makes the living conditions of fishers difficult. In the face of the various climate phenomena that our commune is experiencing, the project might consider:

- *developing the beaches, which extend over approximately 41 km;*
- *cataloguing and densifying the traditional forests;*
- *creating an ecology suited to fishery products, for example by building boxes to be placed in the mangroves to facilitate the reproduction of oysters;*
- *exploring the possibility of creating floating cages to enable fish farmers to continue their activity despite the drought in order to build up food reserves;*
- *further developing fish farming ».* **The elected officials of the commune of Kpomassè present at the session.**

« In Grand-Popo, the floods have receded for about 3 years to give way to drought. In Grand-Popo, there is strong pressure on the mangrove ecosystem because of the use of wood for cooking, for example.

The recommended solutions:

- *restoration of degraded ecosystems*
- *promotion of improved cookstoves*
- *conservation reforestation*
- *safeguarding of the sacred forests along Lake Ahémé*
- *sacralisation of forests to avoid pressure on the mangroves*
- *this project could support the existing FAO Mangrove project and the Mangrove Carbon project currently under development ».* **The representative of the NGO ECO-BENIN.**

« In the commune of Comè, we are witnessing the destruction and degradation of the lowlands, threatening fish species. There is also the destruction of the mangrove by the populations. The silting of Lake Ahémé reduces the populations' activities and makes fish species scarce. The project must help us with palliative solutions to control the production of food crops and to carry out dredging ». **The elected officials of the commune of Comè present at the session**

« In the commune of Ouidah, in the wetlands, three types of activity are carried out, namely: fishing, market gardening and salt production. And for some years now, drought has not favoured activities in these places. In the Avlékété area, there is silting of the lakes due to flooding, which causes the displacement of populations. We ask that the project include, as works in our commune, the dredging of the lakes to restore threatened fish species and the improvement of the activities of vulnerable populations. Likewise, the project should find ways to cope with drought, such as the sector-by-sector planting of mangroves while offering an alternative source of energy to the populations that put pressure on the mangroves ». **The elected officials of the commune of Ouidah present at the session**

« *All the communes making up the CCLC are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Across these communes, 76 fish species are counted, most of which are brackish-water species. The few freshwater species are found in the north of the lake at Bopa. It can be said that the aquatic ecosystem is threatened because of the reduction in water depths, which are silted up and affect the vital conditions of the species. With this threat, the income-generating activities of the fishers are doomed to fail. The difficulty is that in Benin there are not yet any short-cycle fish species because of the salinity of the water. The forthcoming project could propose short-cycle crops for fishers and promote fish farming with brackish-water species. It could also encourage the reforestation of fast-growing species such as sugar cane and plantain to preserve the mangrove, which is under constant pressure from the populations, and carry out the dredging of existing biological reserve areas and their sacralisation »*. Mr **VIAHO Christian, representative of ADELAC**

« To ensure the success of this project in the 5 communes, we must rely on ECO-BENIN to identify the initiatives that could help the project, otherwise the CCLC has no initiative of its own. But we will make the effort to set up a mechanism for monitoring and protecting the mangroves ». **FANOU Roger, Vice-President of the CCLC Tourism Commission and representative of the President.**

« Laws exist; get people to comply with them, as the PROSEL project does in Ouidah through awareness-raising. Not all the texts are known to the populations ». **FASSINOU Awoulou, Municipal Councillor of Djègbadji/Ouidah**

« I think we can move to punitive measures against the populations that destroy the mangroves ». **AMANI Robert, Municipal Councillor of Oumako**

« We will intervene according to the type of project:

- ***Dredging project, we will:***
  - *carry out the topographic survey of the area concerned and make the documents available,*
  - *set up a technical team*
  - *facilitate the project's access to the land records at the town hall*
- ***Oyster production project:***
  - *Identify the sites through the town hall,*
  - *Identify the groups that will carry the project,*
- ***Forest project:***
  - *Identify the forests,*
  - *Facilitate for the project the appropriate forest protection and conservation techniques for each commune*

- ***Mangrove reforestation project:***
  Provide teams and leadership for a sustainable project.

Thus, for all the projects, there will be institutional support to accompany the awareness-raising of the populations ». **Summary of the elected officials' commitments presented by FANOU Roger, Vice-President of the CCLC Tourism Commission and representative of the President**

4.2.5 – Preparation of the consultation of all stakeholders

In order to reach all categories of local communities of the CCLC and to gather relevant information, the participants unanimously recommended that the consultation be conducted at the commune level, thereby allowing better consideration of the issues specific to each commune. They therefore committed to participating actively in:

- the harmonisation of the consultation timetable;
- the provision of meeting rooms for the sessions;
- the mobilisation of the identified actors for the session;
- the effective participation of the staff of each of the communes.

We thus reproduce the commitment made by the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC, conveyed by a representative, regarding the preparation of the consultation of all stakeholders.

« I thank you once again for the floor given to me. I speak once again on behalf of the elected officials present regarding the preparation and organisation of the consultation of all stakeholders. I know there will be no objection, other than a few elements to be added, because the realities are almost the same in all the communes making up the CCLC. It is true that we have told you the essentials here, but going to the grassroots will allow the team to obtain other information useful for the concept note. We remain available, and we undertake, if possible, to play the role of intermediary to pass on to our populations the information about your visit and the arrangements to be made in the town halls to facilitate your mission. But beforehand, you should send us a certain amount of information, such as the period of your visit, the populations concerned and a summary of the types of information you need in the field, so that we can easily gather the target groups. As this is a common cause, aimed at the well-being of us all, we will also facilitate the travel of certain people if necessary. Dear members of the delegation, I do not want to be too long, but know that we are ready and determined to put you at ease once the period is known; thank you… » **Summary of the elected officials' commitments presented by FANOU Roger, Vice-President of the CCLC Tourism Commission and representative of the President**

The delegation reassured the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC that all these local realities would help to organise the consultation of all stakeholders and would be taken into account in the concept note.

The local elected officials, the staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC and the civil society representatives who took part in the consultation session underlined that, if all the proposed activities are properly prioritised and implemented effectively, the resilience of the populations to climate change will be genuinely strengthened. They also expressed the wish that all the recommendations made be examined and integrated into the various project documents.

4.3 – Closing of the consultation session

To close the consultation session, the representative of the FNEC expressed his deep gratitude to the authorities who honoured the invitation with their presence. He also warmly commended the initiatives undertaken by the CCLC in preparing this programme and reaffirmed the FNEC's full readiness to support the CCLC in order to maximise the chances of obtaining financing.

For his part, the representative of the CCLC extended his sincere thanks to the FNEC, and especially to its Director, for the invaluable support provided to the CCLC in preparing the concept note and the funding proposal intended for the Adaptation Fund. He also expressed his gratitude to the participants for their presence and for the richness of their contributions, which enriched the discussions and strengthened the quality of the process.

It was with these words, and in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, that the session ended at 16:48, with the words of farewell from the representative of the President of the CCLC.

Here are some photographs of the meeting.



5 – Debriefing of the stakeholder consultation mission

Following the session, the members of the delegation held discussions to draw up the summary. The methodology adopted for the consultation was analysed, followed by a review of the content of the discussions with the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes and of the results obtained.

5.1 – Commitment of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC

The mission revealed a remarkable commitment on the part of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes, as evidenced by the near-unanimous participation of those invited. The assembly comprised twenty-six participants, of whom 3.85% were women and 7.69% were young people under 35. All the participants contributed actively to the debates and put forward numerous proposals concerning the organisation of the stakeholder consultation as well as the finalisation of the concept note. The sole female representative was able to express herself freely in order to enrich the preliminary document. In view of the promising results obtained, the members of the mission team expressed their deep satisfaction with the conduct of the mission, notwithstanding the uncertainties that had initially hampered its planning, mainly related to the availability of the local authorities and administrative staff.

The elected officials showed keen interest in implementing the various projects within their territories, underlining their determination to contribute actively to their success. The Vice-President of the CCLC Tourism Commission, representing the President, provided a summary of the contributions, which received the unanimous approval of the participants. The latter reaffirmed their willingness to support the implementation of the projects through concrete and specific actions. By way of illustration, regarding the dredging project, the elected officials undertook to carry out a topographic survey of the area concerned and to provide the required documentation. In addition, they will set up a technical team and facilitate the obtaining of land records from the municipal administrations, thereby ensuring a smooth implementation of the project in the localities concerned.

With regard to the other initiatives, the elected officials also made specific commitments. For the oyster-farming project, they undertook to identify the appropriate sites and to survey the local groups likely to carry this project, an element essential to its territorial viability. Concerning the forestry project, the elected officials will work to identify the forests concerned and to facilitate access to the protection and conservation techniques suited to each commune. As for the reforestation of the mangroves, they expressed their intention to mobilise local teams and to ensure strong leadership to guarantee the durability of the initiative. In general, they underlined the importance of institutional support to accompany the awareness-raising of local populations regarding the relevance of these

projects. Their involvement reflects the importance they attach to the success of these initiatives, which they consider fundamental to the sustainable development of their communities.

In order to ensure the durability of the results after the completion of the project, several local mechanisms were proposed by the elected officials. These include the establishment of a dedicated management committee, the articulation with the integrated project to ensure the coherence and continuity of the actions, the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure the coherence and durability of the project's various interventions, as well as the authority's monitoring of the management of the projects in order to maintain their effectiveness over the long term. These arrangements aim to ensure sustainable and participatory governance of the projects, with a view to maximising their impact on local development.

5.2 – Content of the discussions and ownership of the concept note by the potential beneficiaries

The ownership of the concept note by the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes is evident, in view of the contributions and interactions that marked this mission. Most of the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC clearly expressed their support for the project, insisting above all on the communes' responsibilities for the approval of the project by the Adaptation Fund (AF). The proposals suggested by the participants to strengthen the expected results and impacts of the project relate to:

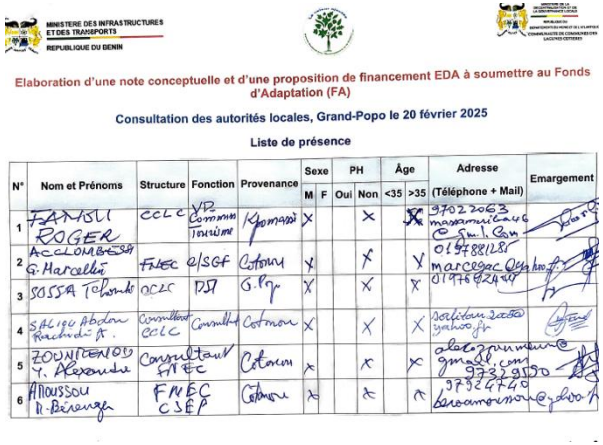
- taking into account fishery species such as oysters, which are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in their localities;
- the dredging of silted areas to prevent flooding and protect the aquatic ecosystem;
- the restoration of the mangroves;
- the protection of forests through sacralisation, for example;
- the promotion of good practices and lessons learned from successful projects to inform the implementation of the planned activities.

While acknowledging the relevance of all these proposals, the delegation, which has already provided responses, undertook to integrate certain proposals into the concept note.

6 – Conclusion of the mission

The mission to consult the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC was a great success. It made it possible to collect information essential to the preparation of the concept note and the EDA funding proposal by the FNEC for submission to the Adaptation Fund (AF) and to the preparation of the consultation of all stakeholders with the local elected officials and staff of the various decentralised structures of the CCLC. It was also a unique opportunity for the members of the delegation to learn more about the realities on the ground and to look to the future with great optimism regarding the approval of the project. The consultants, very satisfied with the work accomplished, thanked all the members of the delegation for their sacrifice, while wishing for greater enthusiasm and better collaboration among partners for the rest of the process.

Annex: List of participants



MINISTERE DES INFRASTRUCTURES ET DES TRANSPORTS
REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN

Elaboration d'une note conceptuelle et d'une proposition de financement EDA à soumettre au Fonds d'Adaptation (FA)

Consultation des autorités locales, Grand-Popo le 20 février 2025

Liste de présence

N°	Nom et Prénoms	Structure	Fonction	Provenance	Sexe		PH		Âge		Adresse (Téléphone + Mail)	Emargement
					M	F	Oui	Non	<35	>35		
1	FANGBLI ROGER	CCLC	VP Comm. Tourisme	Kpomassè	X			X		X	97022063	
2	ACCLOMBESSI G. Marcellin	FNEC	C/SGF	Cotonou	X			X		X	01978812	
3	SOSSA Tchondé	CCLC	DST	G.Pop	X			X		X	01976924	
4	SALIOU Abdou Rachidi A.	Consultant CCLC	Consultant	Cotonou	X			X		X		
5	ZOUNTCHO Y. Alexandre	Consultant FNEC		Cotonou	X			X		X	97332	
6	ATOUSSOU D. Bérenger	FNEC CSEP		Cotonou	X			X		X	97924	

N°	Nom et Prénoms	Structure	Fonction	Provenance	Sexe		PH		Âge		Adresse	Emargement
					M	F	Oui	Non	<35	>35		
7	KPATCHA Cocou Richard	Mairie	CAI	Grand-Popo	X			X		X		
8	KPOGNON Adrien	Mairie	CA Agronome	Kpomassè		X		X		X	97446825	
9	GBAGUIDI Maurice	Mairie	ADLP	Grand Popo	M						01973	
10	ROKO Habib	Mairie	DDLP	Ouidah	M			X		X	01965	
11	HOUNSOU A. Gisèle M.C	Mairie	DDLP	KPOMASSE		X		X		X	01959	
12	SOSSA Godjo Nestor	Mairie	CA	Questeur Adjoint Comé	M			X		X	95843088 / 66470517	
13	Amani A. Robert	Mairie	CA	Dumasha	M						95866415	
14	AYI Mathieu SOWANOU	Mairie	CA	AKODEHA	M					X	97869744	
15	Aurel Vincent	Mairie	RA Plan. Budget	Agbakpho	M			X		X	97933143	
16	VIAHO Camille Christian	ADELAC	DPEB	Kpomassè	X			X		X	96112343	
17	ADJAHAN René	Mairie	CA Gbépa	Ouidah	X					X	01963088 / 01440	

Nom et Prénoms	Structure	Fonction	Provenance	Sexe		PH		Âge		Adresse	Emargement
				M	F	Oui	Non	<35	>35		
FASSINOU Aurélien	Mairie	CA	Ouidah	X					X	01961586	
KOUMASSA Moïse	ECO-BENIN	Chargé de Projets	Calavi	X			X	X		01672269	
OUSSE Yaovi Bernard	CCLC	C/RST	Grand-Popo	X					X	97541	
HONZOUNON Ch. C. Franck	CCLC	Agent Conservateur	Grand-Popo	X					X	01964	
BRAMANE Akim	Mairie	DDLP	Comé	X			X		X	01962	
AITONDJI Magloire	Avocat	CNA	Abomey-Calavi	X			X		X	01403	
AGNOUN D. Roméo	Consultant FNEC	Assistant	Abomey-Calavi	X			X	X		01968	
HEKPONHOUE Sylvain	Consultant FNEC	Assistant	Abomey-Calavi	X			X		X	01611	
DJINEZO Francia	CCLC	Agent CCLC	Grand-Popo	X			X		X		

MINISTERE DU CADRE DE VIE
ET DES TRANSPORTS
EN CHARGE DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
REPUBLIQUE DU BENIN

MINISTERE DE LA
DECENTRALISATION ET DE
LA GOUVERNANCE LOCALE
REPUBLIQUE DU
DEPARTEMENTS DU MONO ET DE L'ATLANTIQUE
COMMUNAUTE DE COMMUNES DES
LAGUNES COTIERES

Locally Led Adaptation to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Benin's Coastal Lagoons Inter-Municipal Community






Report on the stakeholder consultation conducted as part of the preparation of an EDA Concept Note to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund

May 2025

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ANPC	:	National Civil Protection Agency
ATDA	:	Territorial Agency for Agricultural Development
CCLC	:	Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes
NDC	:	Nationally Determined Contributions
DGEC	:	Directorate General of the Environment and Climate
DGEFC	:	Directorate General of Water, Forests and Hunting
EDA	:	Enhanced Direct Access
FA	:	Adaptation Fund
FNEC	:	National Fund for the Environment and the Climate
FONCAT	:	National Disaster Response Fund
GCF	:	Green Climate Fund
GUPS	:	Single Window for Social Protection
MAEP	:	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
CN	:	Concept Note
ODD	:	Sustainable Development Goals
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization
CCP	:	Communal Contingency Plan
CPDRR	:	Communal Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
NAP	:	National Adaptation Plan
NPDRR – ACC	:	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change
PRCC-CCLC	:	Climate Change Resilience Program for Vulnerable Communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes

1 – Background of the mission

Climate change poses a significant threat to global socioeconomic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to its growing impact on populations and economies. Like other sub-Saharan African countries, Benin is particularly vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, prolonged dry spells, violent winds, coastal erosion, and rising sea levels. This vulnerability, exacerbated by poverty, is detailed in various national strategic documents, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the National Low-Carbon Development Strategy (2016–2025). A review of these documents identifies eight key sectors requiring adaptation measures: agriculture; water resources; energy; health; infrastructure and urban planning; tourism; forestry; and the coastline.

For several years, Benin has been taking concrete action to address the challenges posed by climate change. However, despite these efforts, the country struggles to combat the harmful effects of climate change effectively because it lacks the financial resources and technical capacity to turn the promising ideas and initiatives in the climate management documents into viable projects.

To mobilize climate resources, the National Fund for the Environment and the Climate (FNEC) was established. The FNEC is the Republic of Benin's first national mechanism for financing programs and projects to protect and manage the environment sustainably, combat the harmful effects of climate change, and promote sustainable development. To fulfill this mission, the FNEC has been accredited as the national implementing entity for projects of the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In response to the impact of climate change on the communes of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), the "Climate Change Resilience Program for Vulnerable Communities in Benin's Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (PRCC-CCLC)" has been proposed to the National Fund for the Environment and the Climate (FNEC) for submission to the Adaptation Fund for financing. To this end, the FNEC has recruited a consultant to support the CCLC in finalizing the project. Accordingly, consultations with local elected officials and staff from the various decentralized CCLC structures were held on 20 February 2025 at the CCLC headquarters in Grand Popo. This step is crucial for preparing the Concept Note (CN) and Funding Proposal (FP) for submission through the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) window[1]. Essential information was collected at the end of this consultation.

This report summarizes the various meetings and is organized around three main points: (i) the conduct and outcomes of the stakeholder consultations, and (ii) the debriefing of the mission.

[1] https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/acces-direct-ameliore-eda-french/, consulted on 12 March 2025'

2 – Process and results of stakeholder consultations

The stakeholder consultation aims to gather essential information to inform the EDA concept note and funding proposal that the FNEC will submit to the Adaptation Fund (AF). The proposal focuses on climate change resilience for vulnerable populations in the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes of Benin. Specifically, this will involve:

- collecting data to conduct a general assessment of the impacts of climate change and the needs of communities in the selected communes;
- meeting with local and regional authorities, as well as staff from the various communes, to identify options for adapting CCLC populations to climate change;
- engaging with potential beneficiaries to identify local needs for climate change resilience;
- conducting field visits to observe the daily activities of local communities and assess existing climate change resilience practices.

To achieve these objectives, a participatory and inclusive approach was used to ensure the effective involvement of all stakeholders in preparing the EDA concept note and funding proposal. This approach also ensured that the proposed solutions were tailored to the specific needs of local communities.

2.1 – Methodology for conducting the consultation

The stakeholder consultation mission took place over five (05) days, from 22 to 28 April 2025, across five (05) communes, as shown in the table below.

The mission team comprised two (02) representatives of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), one (01) representative of the National Fund for the Environment and the Climate (FNEC) and one (01) FNEC consultant. Two (02) women supported the team's mission by managing finances and accounting. The itinerary followed during the mission was as follows: Abomey-Calavi – Ouidah – Kpomassè – Comè – Grand-Popo – Abomey-Calavi.

No.	Commune	Dates	Location	Activities
1	Ouidah	22/04/2025	Conference room of the Ouidah Town Hall	Greeting of the authorities of the Ouidah Town Hall
				Stakeholder consultation
			Living and working environment of the local communities	Field visit
2	Kpomassè	23/04/2025	Conference room of the Kpomassè Town Hall	Greeting of the authorities of the Kpomassè Town Hall
				Stakeholder consultation
			Living and working environment of the local communities	Field visit
3	Comè	24/04/2025	Conference room of the Comé Town Hall	Greeting of the authorities of the Comé Town Hall
				Stakeholder consultation
			Living and working environment of the local communities	Field visit
4	Grand-Popo	25/04/2025	Conference room of the Grand-Popo Town Hall	Meeting and discussions with the authorities and staff of the Town Hall
				Stakeholder consultation
			Living and working environment of the local communities	Field visit
5	Abomey-Calavi	28/04/2025	Conference room of the Abomey-Calavi Town Hall	Meeting and discussions with the authorities and staff of the Town Hall
				Stakeholder consultation
			Living and working environment of the local communities	Field visit

In each locality visited, the stakeholder consultation was organized into three phases: (i) a discussion with the mayors or their representatives and staff from the various communes (Ouidah, Kpomassè, Comè, Grand-Popo and Abomey-Calavi); (ii) a presentation and discussion with potential beneficiaries, private sector actors and local community members; and (iii) a field visit.

Two weeks before the start of the mission, the Terms of Reference (ToRs) were prepared and sent to the various stakeholders, along with the invitation letter. The team identified and informed stakeholders who could participate in the consultation.

2.2 – Process and results of consultations in Ouidah

2.2.1 – Courtesy call on the Ouidah Commune authorities

The stakeholder consultation mission in Ouidah began on 22 April 2025 at 09:30 with a meeting with the local authorities. Upon arrival, the mission team, led by the DSI of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), went to the office of the Head of the Environmental Affairs Department. Mr. YEBE Eloi represented the Mayor, who was otherwise engaged. The team paid their respects and presented the purpose of the day's meeting. Following introductions and a presentation of the CCLC initiative, which receives technical support from the FNEC, the DSI, the FNEC representative, and the consultant emphasized the importance of stakeholder consultation in preparing a Concept Note for submission to the Adaptation Fund. They also stressed the need for data to be gathered for drafting the Concept Note and recalled the strategic importance for the CCLC of accessing this financing. The representative of the communal authority, pleased with the CCLC initiative and the FNEC's support, assured them of full cooperation in preparing the Concept Note. The delegation was then escorted to the ATDA of Ouidah meeting room, where they participated in a discussion with various invited stakeholders.

2.2.2 – Meeting with potential beneficiaries in Ouidah

The meeting with the potential beneficiaries of the Commune of Ouidah took place on Tuesday, 22 April 2025, in the ATDA meeting room in Ouidah. Twenty-nine (29) people attended, including 24.13% women and two (02) persons with disabilities. The list of participants is attached to this report (Annex 1).

The session began with three (03) opening addresses, after which the consultant collected data using the interview guide designed for this purpose. The interview guide was conducted in the Fon language to enable the participants to fully understand the information and take an active part in the discussions.

2.2.2.1 – Opening addresses of the session

The first address was delivered by the representative of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes, who thanked the Town Hall's C/SAE for technical support in preparing the concept note and the FNEC and meeting participants for attending. He emphasized that this project is currently the CCLC's flagship, aimed at protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening their resilience to climate change. Finally, he invited participants to contribute to the discussions to ensure the concept note includes relevant information.

During his intervention, the FNEC representative expressed gratitude to the communal authorities, the CCLC, the consultant, and all participants. He recalled the FNEC's role in preparing and submitting the EDA concept note and funding proposal. He stressed the importance of stakeholder consultation in the preparation process and noted that this approach aims to involve potential project beneficiaries from the design phase onward. He asked participants to answer the questions precisely to ensure the concept note is complete.

In his address, the representative of the Mayor of Ouidah, the C/SAE of the Town Hall, highlighted the impact of climate change on farmers' activities in the commune. He then referred to the consequences suffered by populations in certain arrondissements, which required the Town Hall to intervene and support disaster victims. Finally, he thanked the CCLC for the initiative and the FNEC for its technical support of the CCLC, before officially opening the session and calling for active participation.

2.2.2.2 – Results of the consultations with potential beneficiaries in Ouidah

- **Perception of climate change by the potential beneficiaries met in Ouidah**

The participants' perception of climate change was gathered by examining the manifestations and extreme climate events that caused the changes, as well as their impact on the local communities in this commune.

Manifestations of climate change in the Commune of Ouidah

The discussions revealed that the commune is experiencing a range of climatic phenomena, including flooding, rising temperatures, irregular rainfall (late and short-lived), an early end to the rainy season, increasingly harsh sunshine, and longer dry spells. These phenomena have become more frequent in recent years and have been accompanied by new hazards, such as sharp increases in the number of birds that destroy crops (e.g., village weavers and partridges), pest insects, defoliating caterpillars, and

crop diseases. The climatic manifestations that the local communities face can be summarized as follows:

- since 2014, the commune of Ouidah has experienced flooding every year, reaching unprecedented levels;
- since 2024, the commune has experienced a prolonged drought, causing lake water levels to rise excessively. This has led to the disappearance of fish and the drying up of crops;
- since 2020, attacks on crop plants by defoliating caterpillars have reached an unprecedented scale in the commune.

Extreme climate events over the past five years in the Commune of Ouidah

All invited stakeholders had witnessed at least one extreme climate event in their locality. Here are a few of their testimonies. We translated the testimonies of speakers who spoke in Fon into French.

Statement by a farmer

"In 2023 and 2024, the short rainy season did not occur in the commune. In a normal year, the rains would have started on March 15. So far in 2025, we can count on our fingers how many times it has rained. In contrast, in 2023, our fields were flooded to a degree never seen before. The water stagnated for weeks, destroying our maize and cassava harvests. What was once fertile land has become a swamp. Today, even with the drought that has followed, the soil has not regained its productivity.", ***DJOTINGNON BOCO Nizier****, farmer, President of the CPO.*

Statement by a poultry farmer

"Poultry farming has been a real ordeal in Ouidah for the past three years. Heat waves kill my chicks by the dozen and irregular rainfall spreads diseases such as avian flu. Before, I would lose five chickens a year; now, it is half of my entire flock. The cost of poultry feed has increased due to poor maize harvests and low yields. Without support for ventilated shelters and vaccines, our traditional knowledge is disappearing along with our local chickens.", ***SODJO Gloria,*** *Poultry farmer in Ahozon***.**

Statement by a market gardener and fisher

"Since 2020, our market-garden crops have been ravaged by locusts and caterpillars. Last year, our cassava and vegetable plantations were destroyed in a matter of days. Even more seriously, the current drought is drying up our waterways, and the lake's warm water is becoming uninhabitable for fish. Our livelihoods are gradually collapsing.", ***AGASSOUNON Martial,*** *Market gardener and fisher in Ouidah***.**

Causes of climate change in the Commune of Ouidah

According to the stakeholders consulted, the causes of climate change in the commune of Ouidah are numerous and include:

- the traditional rituals practiced during ceremonies, as well as the dispersal of clouds caused by major construction work aimed at driving away or holding back the rain;
- the destruction of mangroves and forests;
- the destruction of trees due to farming activities;
- the use of plastic bags in households;
- air pollution;
- growing urbanization.

Consequences of climate change in the Commune of Ouidah

In recent years, the Commune of Ouidah has experienced several effects of climate change, including:

- disruption of the agricultural calendar and a decline in production;
- destruction of crops and livestock;
- recurrence of early transhumance and intensification of conflicts between farmers and herders;
- destruction of homes and social infrastructure and loss of human life;
- inability to meet family needs (e.g., children's schooling and food security);
- increase in climate-sensitive diseases (e.g., malaria and acute respiratory infections).

Climate change adaptation practices or technologies

As part of the climate change adaptation process, some of the stakeholders consulted indicated that they resort to the following practices:

- adapting the agricultural calendar to the new climatic seasons;
- composting and using organic manure to enrich the soil;
- building shelters for livestock to protect them from climate hazards;
- crop rotation and diversifying cropping systems to preserve soil fertility and limit the risk of losses.

Climate change resilience needs in the Commune of Ouidah

Stakeholders emphasized the importance of strengthening resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly in preserving aquatic and forest ecosystems. This includes the following:

- protecting endangered fishery species;
- dredging lakes to restore aquatic habitats;
- establishing secure breeding zones for fish;
- installing sustainable irrigation systems;
- facilitating access to more resilient seeds, particularly native varieties adapted to climate change;
- facilitating access to agricultural insurance services to support producers affected by extreme weather events;
- promoting local chicken farming systems;
- drilling boreholes appropriate to each production activity;
- facilitating access to renewable, sustainable, low-cost energy sources;
- facilitating the marketing of agroecological products;
- strengthening capacities through training in new production techniques.

Stakeholders, roles and responsibilities in the implementation of a project

The table below lists the stakeholders identified by the participants, along with their roles and responsibilities for implementing the project.

No.	Stakeholders/Actors	Roles and responsibilities
1	Town Hall	Monitoring of activities, relaying and raising awareness, and supporting producers to sustain the project's gains
2	ATDA	Training, awareness-raising, relaying of information, collection of information, monitoring and advisory support
3	Communal Water and Forest Section	Training, awareness-raising, information relaying, information collection, monitoring and advisory support
4	Beneficiaries	Knowledge sharing and mutual assistance in extreme situations

Obstacles to the implementation of the project in the commune

For the stakeholders consulted in the Commune of Ouidah, the main obstacles to implementation are the lack of involvement of all stakeholders and the lack of activity monitoring.

Traditional practices for weather prediction

The stakeholders mentioned that they rely on certain traditional practices, passed down through the generations and summarized in the table below, to predict the rainy and dry seasons. However, these methods have become less reliable due to the gradual disappearance of biodiversity.

Traditional/endogenous practices	Weather events
The appearance of swallows	Signal the drought
Nest-building by weaver birds	Nests built lower down indicate the absence of flooding, whereas nests built higher up announce flooding
The blossoming of flame trees	Announces the drought
Traditional or lunar calendar	The name of the months in the local language foretells weather events
The appearance of cattle egrets	Announces the drought
The appearance of black insects	Announces the drought

Appearance and movements of certain kinds of insects on the ground	Signal the beginning of the rainy season
Appearance of white herons	Marks the end of the rainy season
Appearance of ant colonies on the ground at specific locations	Indicates the cessation of the rains
Repeated cries of the birds known as “houtoutou”	Announces the beginning of the rainy season

2.2.2.3 – Closing of the consultation session with potential beneficiaries in Ouidah

The session was closed by the CCLC representative, who expressed satisfaction with the quality of the participants’ contributions and the work done to collect the essential information for drafting the concept note. He thanked the FNEC once again for its support and confirmed that the stakeholders of the Commune of Ouidah would be available to carry this process through to a successful conclusion.

The photos below show highlights from the session in Ouidah.



2.2.3 – Field visit to Ouidah

The field visit took place in the Savi district. The mission team travelled here to observe the manifestations and consequences of climate change in the fields of two participants.

A few photos were taken to capture the observations made during the field visit.



2.3 – Process and results of consultations in Kpomassè

2.3.1 – Courtesy visit to the authorities of the Town Hall of Kpomassè

The stakeholder consultation mission in Kpomassè began on 23 April 2025 at 09:45 with a meeting with the local authorities. Upon arrival, the delegation went to the Town Hall to inform the communal authority of the purpose of the day's meeting and to pay their respects. As the authorities were busy, the delegation was received by the Head of the Town Hall's Cooperation Service. After the customary introductions, the CCLC representative presented the initiative, which benefits from the FNEC's technical support. In turn, the FNEC representative and the consultant highlighted the importance of the stakeholder consultation stage in drafting the Concept Note to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund. Pleased with the CCLC's initiative and the FNEC's efforts to support it, the representative of the communal authority assured the delegation that she would report back to the Mayor to ensure the success of this stage in drafting the NC. The delegation was then led to the ATDA meeting room in Kpomassè, where they met with the invited stakeholders.

2.3.2 – Meeting with potential beneficiaries in Kpomassè

The meeting with the potential beneficiaries of the commune of Kpomassè was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in the ATDA meeting room in Kpomassè. Forty-three people attended, including 18.6% women and one person with a disability. The list of participants is attached to this report (Annex 2).

The session began with two speeches, after which data was collected using the interview guide designed by the consultant for this purpose. The guide was used to conduct interviews in both French and Fon, enabling participants to fully understand the information and actively contribute to the discussions.

2.3.2.1 – Opening speeches of the session

The first speech was delivered by the representative of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes, who thanked the FNEC for its support in drafting the concept note, the Head of the Town Hall's Cooperation Service, and the participants for attending the meeting. He emphasized that this project is currently the CCLC's flagship initiative to protect vulnerable populations and strengthen their resilience to climate change. Finally, he invited the participants to contribute to the discussions, ensuring the concept note is based on relevant information.

In his address, the FNEC representative thanked the communal authorities, the CCLC, the consultant, and the participants. He also recalled the FNEC's role in drafting and submitting the concept note and the EDA funding proposal. He then emphasized the importance of stakeholder consultation during the drafting process. The aim of this consultation is to involve potential beneficiaries in the project's design phase, and he invited participants to answer the questions precisely so that the concept note would be well informed.

2.3.2.2 – Outcomes of the consultations with potential beneficiaries in Kpomassè

- **Perception of climate change by the potential beneficiaries met in Kpomassè**

The participants' perception of climate change was gathered by examining the manifestations and extreme climate events, as well as the causes of these changes and their impact on the local communities in this commune.

Manifestations of climate change in the Commune of Kpomassè

The discussions revealed that the commune experiences various climatic phenomena, including irregular rainfall (late and short-lived), flooding, rising temperatures resulting in intense heat, violent winds, an early end to the rainy season, and dry spells. These phenomena have become more frequent in recent years. They are accompanied by the appearance of new species, such as antelopes, deer, and the "tossoé" species in Fon, as well as insects and invasive plant species. The climatic manifestations that the local communities face can be summarized as follows:

- since 2024, the commune of Kpomassè has experienced persistent drought, causing the lake waters to warm;
- since 2015, the commune of Kpomassè has suffered floods every year, reaching unprecedented levels;
- since 2020, rising Lake Ahémé waters have destroyed habitats and gradually encroached on the banks;

- since 2019, it has become difficult to distinguish between the seasons, making it especially hard to establish a calendar for the flood period.

Extreme climate events observed over the past five years in the commune of Kpomassè

All invited stakeholders had witnessed at least one extreme climate event in their locality. Here are a few of their testimonies. We have translated the testimonies of speakers who expressed themselves in Fon into French.

Testimony of a fisher facing the rising waters of Lake Ahémé

*"Since 2020, Lake Ahémé has been gradually encroaching on our land. Five years ago, my house stood where my nets are now set. The water level keeps rising. There are fewer and fewer fish, and our children are falling ill from the stagnant water. What was once a source of life has become a threat driving us away.", **GOVI Clément,** fisher at Tokpadomè.*

Statement by a woman farmer on the irregularity of the rains

*"In 2023, we planted three times but didn't harvest anything. The rains either come too late or stop too early, or fall all in a single day, flooding everything. My local seeds used to withstand this, but now even the maize rots in the ground. If it survives, we can no longer use it for the next sowing in the coming season – we must buy new seeds. How can we feed our families when the seasons are so unstable?", **Sossa Colette,** farmer at Dédomè.*

Statement by a market gardener on the irregularity of the rains

*"Before, I knew exactly when to sow my tomatoes and other vegetables. Now, with the rains coming late and stopping abruptly, it has become a real nightmare. In 2023, my seedlings were scorched by a sudden heatwave and then rotted in the torrential October rains. Pest insects, such as these new black caterpillars, finished off the rest. My harvests have halved over the past three years. Without reliable water supplies and effective solutions to combat these new pests, we are slowly but surely moving toward famine.", **HOUESSINON Gérard,** market gardener at Cocoundji.*

Statement by a livestock farmer on the irregularity of the rains and the intense heat

*"The intense heat in recent years has led to water scarcity, putting my poultry under significant stress and causing a significant drop in production. On top of that, the lack of electricity means I have to use generators, which drives up my production costs. I spend between 50,000 and 75,000 CFA francs on fuel alone each day, not counting maintenance costs.", **AMOUSSOU Félix**, livestock farmer at Tokpadomè.*

Causes of climate change in the commune of Kpomassè

According to the stakeholders consulted, climate change in Kpomassè can be attributed to various factors, including:

- traditional rituals performed during ceremonies to ward off or hold back the rain;
- the destruction of mangroves and forests;
- the construction of infrastructure;
- archaic fishing techniques.

Consequences of climate change in the commune of Kpomassè

The consequences of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent in Kpomassè, affecting ecosystems and populations.

- **Agricultural and economic disruptions:**
  - disruption of the farming calendar and falling agricultural yields;
  - repeated destruction of crops and livestock;
  - growing loss of income for households;
  - increasing inability to meet essential needs (e.g. schooling and food security);
  - increasingly difficult reproduction of fish in the lakes.
- **Degradation of aquatic ecosystems**
  - progressive silting of water bodies;

        - worrying disappearance and/or migration of aquatic species (e.g. hippopotamuses, manatees and crocodiles);
        - scarcity of water hyacinths and oysters;
        - disruption of the biological cycle of fishery species;
        - accidental deaths by drowning of fishers during sudden floods.
    - **Conflicts and forced migrations:**
        - early transhumance of livestock;
        - resurgence of tensions between farmers and livestock herders;
        - accelerated rural exodus in the face of precariousness.
    - **Impoverishment of biodiversity:**
        - disappearance of animal species (caimans, pythons and partridges);
        - dramatic erosion of mangroves and forests.

Climate change resilience needs in the commune of Kpomassè

In the face of climate challenges, local stakeholders have identified practical solutions to protect ecosystems and safeguard livelihoods. Their needs center on several key areas:

- installation of irrigation systems tailored to producers' needs;
- dredging of lakes to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems;
- creation of protected areas for fish reproduction;
- drilling of strategic boreholes based on precise soil studies;
- construction of tanks for above-ground fish farming;
- equipping aquaculture facilities with sustainable solar systems;
- training farmers in optimized, environmentally friendly production techniques;
- installation of solar panels to compensate for a lack of access to electricity;
- setting up agricultural insurance schemes adapted to local realities with flexible, accessible terms.

Stakeholders, roles and responsibilities in the implementation of a project

The table below presents the stakeholders identified by the participants, along with their roles and responsibilities for implementing the project.

No.	Stakeholders/Actors	Roles and responsibilities
1	Town Hall	Monitoring activities relaying information and raising awareness, identifying and supporting disaster victims in the event of flooding
2	ATDA	Training, raising awareness, relaying and gathering information, monitoring, providing advisory support and promoting farmer field schools
3	Beneficiaries	Sharing information and knowledge and upholding climate-resilient production practices

Obstacles to the implementation of the project in the commune

For the actors consulted in the Commune of Kpomassè, the main obstacles to setting up projects are the failure to involve all stakeholders and the lack of activity monitoring, because some parties feel less concerned during implementation.

Traditional practices for weather prediction

Participants in this consultation session reported that they rely on traditional practices, including observing the appearance and behavior of a category of birds that signal the start of the rainy season. However, these practices are becoming increasingly unreliable, primarily due to the ongoing decline in biodiversity.

2.3.2.3 – Closing of the potential beneficiaries' consultation session in Kpomassè

The FNEC representative closed the session, expressing satisfaction with the quality of participants' contributions and the information collected. He reassured the producers that they would be involved at every stage of the process, from conception to implementation. The photos below highlight some of the session's highlights in Kpomassè.





2.3.3 – Field visit in Kpomassè

The field visit took place in two districts: Kpomassè Centre and Dékanmè. In Kpomassè Centre, the mission team visited a reference farm that is suffering the consequences of climate change. In Dékanmè, they observed erosion of the lagoon bank caused by rising water levels, which is leading to the bank's disappearance and the destruction of habitats.

2.4 – Process and results of stakeholder consultations in Comè

2.4.1 – Courtesy call on the authorities of the Comè Town Hall

The stakeholder consultation mission in Comè took place on 24 April 2025 with a meeting with the First Deputy Mayor. The mission delegation paid its respects to the communal authority and informed him of the purpose of the day's meeting. Thus, after the customary introductions, the representative of the FNEC presented the project led by the CCLC and the importance of the stakeholder consultation stage in the preparation of a Concept Note to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund. The First Deputy Mayor then asked his associate to settle the delegation in the conference room for the discussion session with the various invited actors. He joined the mission team to open the session.

2.4.2 – Meeting with potential beneficiaries in Comè

The meeting with the potential beneficiaries of the commune of Comè took place on Thursday 24 April 2025 in the conference room of the Comè Town Hall. It brought together forty-four (44) people, including 15.90% women and two (02) persons with disabilities. The list of participants appears in annex 3 of this report.

The session began with three addresses, followed by data collection using the interview guide designed by the Consultant for this purpose. The interview guide was conducted in French, Fon and Mina to allow all producers to fully grasp the information and to take an active part in the discussions.

2.4.2.1 – Opening addresses of the session

The first address was given by the representative of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes, who wished to thank the First Deputy Mayor for his presence despite his many commitments, the FNEC through its representative who is supporting them in preparing the concept note, and the participants for their attendance at the meeting. He then recalled that this project aims to protect vulnerable populations and strengthen their resilience to climate change. Finally, he invited the participants to contribute fully to the discussions so that the concept note could be prepared with relevant information.

The representative of the FNEC began his intervention by extending his thanks to the First Deputy Mayor, to the CCLC, and to all the participants. After recalling the FNEC's driving role in preparing the submission file for an EDA project, he stressed the importance of stakeholder contributions in finalizing a quality concept note. To this end, he urged the audience to provide precise answers to the ongoing consultations.

Speaking on behalf of the Mayor, who was unable to attend, the First Deputy expressed his gratitude to the MCVT, in particular the FNEC and the CCLC, for the efforts made in supporting local communities in managing the impacts of climate change. He then reminded the participants that the objective of this consultation is to collect key information for the preparation of a concept note focused on the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate change, of which they will be the beneficiaries. Finally, he encouraged the participants to be diligent and to contribute actively to the discussions, and with these words he declared the session open.

2.4.2.2 – Results of the consultations with the potential beneficiaries in Comè

- **Perception of climate change by the potential beneficiaries met in Comè**

The participants' views on climate change were gathered across several aspects: the observed manifestations, extreme climate events, the identified causes of these changes, and their impacts on the local communities of the commune.

Manifestations of climate change in the commune of Comè

The discussions showed that the commune is affected by multiple climate hazards: heatwaves, floods, drought, bank erosion, irregular rains and violent winds. These phenomena, increasingly recurrent, are also accompanied by the proliferation of new animal and plant species. Here are the main challenges facing the populations:

- since 2024, increased drought has caused an abnormal warming of the lake waters, disrupting aquatic ecosystems;
- every year since 2016, exceptional floods have submerged the commune, reaching unprecedented levels;

- the rising waters of Lake Ahémé, particularly notable since 2020, are destroying riverside habitats and causing the lake to advance progressively onto the adjacent land.

Extreme climate events observed over the past five years in the commune of Comè

The invited actors had witnessed at least one extreme climate event in their locality, and here are some of their testimonies. We have translated into French those who spoke in Mina.

Statement by a farmer on the recurrent floods

*« In 2023, the floods swept away everything: my maize plants, my cassava stocks, even the fences. The water stayed three weeks in the fields. Afterwards, the soil was sterile and salty. The local seeds we had preserved for generations rotted. Now, hybrid seeds cost too much, and the yields are miserable », **AMOUSSOU Isidore,** farmer at Comè*.

Testimony of a fisher on drought and the warming of the lakes

*« Since the beginning of 2024, the lake water has become so warm that fish are dying by the hundreds. Our nets come up empty, and the few surviving fish are too small to sell. Before, the lake fed us all year round; today, even the catfish are disappearing. Without fish, how can I meet the needs of my household members? », **SIDOL Pierre,** fisher at Comè.*

Intervention by a fish farmer on drought and floods

*« Our fish farming ponds, once thriving, are now threatened on all sides. Since 2024, the drought has cut the water level by half, and the excessive heat is causing massive mortality among the fry. The floods of 2023 swept away our nets and destroyed the fences, leaving predators free to reach the ponds. Worse still, the silting of Lake Ahémé has polluted our water sources with sediments that suffocate the fish. Without a solar irrigation system to maintain the water level and without protection against climate hazards, our ancestral know-how risks disappearing along with our fish », **KINDJIHO José,** fish farmer in Totchon-Agni.*

Causes of climate change in the Commune of Comè

According to the local stakeholders consulted at this session, the factors behind climate change in the commune of Comè are multiple:

- traditional rituals during ceremonies and the construction of infrastructure to block or divert the rain;
- intensive deforestation for domestic and agricultural needs;
- destructive exploitation of mangroves and mangrove trees as fuelwood by households;
- persistent practice of slash-and-burn farming;
- use of chemical products near watercourses, which contaminates the species living in the water;
- systematic felling of trees to expand cultivable land;
- uncontrolled use of plastic bags in agricultural areas;
- incineration of plastic waste by households

Consequences of climate change in the Commune of Comè

The effects of climate disruption are profoundly transforming the commune of Comè, with serious repercussions on the environment and the population:

- **Accelerated degradation of ecosystems:**
  - alarming disappearance of fish species in the lakes;
  - disruption of the fish reproduction cycle in the lakes;
  - progressive drying up and silting of the commune's lakes;
  - disappearance of mangroves and forests (including the Lizèhon forest);
  - extinction of plant species essential to animal feed.
- **Agricultural and food crisis:**
  - severe disruption of the agricultural calendar;
  - drastic decline in agricultural yields;
  - recurrent destruction of crops;
  - stunted growth of cultivated plants;

- distress selling of crops;
- alarming decrease in food production.

- **Major socio-economic impacts:**
  - impoverishment of households due to loss of income;
  - growing food insecurity;
  - increased difficulty in meeting the essential needs of household members;
  - resurgence of farmer-herder conflicts linked to early transhumance;
  - divorce, rural migration and a resurgence of theft.
- **Public health at risk:**
  - increase in waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrhoea, vomiting, etc.)
  - health risks linked to environmental degradation.

Needs for climate change resilience in the Commune of Comè

Faced with these climate challenges, the stakeholders propose a multidimensional strategy built around 4 priority areas:

- **Sustainable water management and irrigation**
  - installation of solar-powered boreholes for lasting access to water;
  - construction of water reservoirs to secure production;
  - deployment of sustainable irrigation systems;
  - promotion of off-season crops;
- **Ecosystem restoration and protection**
  - programme for dredging and rehabilitating the lakes;
  - creation of protected areas for fish species;
  - establishment of forest protection measures;
  - restoration and preservation of mangroves;
  - aquatic biodiversity conservation projects.
- **Sustainable agricultural innovation**
  - development of solar-powered above-ground fish farming;
  - promotion of agroecological practices:
    - cultivation of soil-fertilising species for arable land (Gliricidia sepium, Acacia);
    - composting techniques;
    - organic farming,
  - Organisation of farmer field schools for knowledge sharing.
- **Awareness-raising and capacity building**
  - education campaigns on non-resilient practices;
  - training in adapted farming techniques;
  - a system for monitoring and evaluating practices.

Stakeholders, roles and responsibilities in the implementation of a project

The table below presents the stakeholders identified by the participants, along with their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project.

No.	Stakeholders/Actors	Roles and responsibilities
1	Town Hall	Training, activity monitoring, relaying of information and awareness-raising, support for initiatives, projects/programmes
2	ATDA	Training, awareness-raising, relaying information, gathering information, monitoring and advisory support, promoting farmer field schools
3	ONG	Advisory support, testing of new techniques, material support
4	Umbrella organizations	Relaying of information, awareness-raising
5	Beneficiaries	Sharing information and knowledge, upholding climate-resilient production practices

Obstacles to the implementation of the project in the commune

The main obstacles identified to the implementation of climate projects in the commune of Comè are:

- unequal involvement of stakeholders in the process;

- a sense of marginalisation among certain key actors;
- insufficient coordination mechanisms between actors;
- absence of a structured system for monitoring activities;
- discontinuity in the carrying out of actions;
- weak local ownership of initiatives;
- lack of clarity in the distribution of roles and responsibilities;
- insufficient communication about the project's benefits;
- weak synergy between the interventions of the different partners.

Traditional practices for weather prediction

The consultation participants shared several ancestral practices for seasonal forecasting, while noting their declining reliability. The following table summarises the practices gathered.

Traditional/endogenous practices	Weather events
The appearance of swallows	Signal the drought
Nest-building by weaver birds	Nests built lower down indicate the absence of flooding, whereas nests built higher up announce flooding
Appearance and movements of certain kinds of insects on the ground	herald the start of the rainy season
Appearance of white herons	marks the end of the rainy season

Management of extreme climate events

It should be noted that the actions planned in the existing PCCs are not being implemented due to budgetary constraints. As a result, the Town Hall relies mainly on ATDA statistics regarding the damage suffered by producers and on projects deployed by partners to respond to natural risks and disasters. In this way, the Town Hall assists the disaster victims identified by the ATDA.

The ATDA records the areas that have suffered crop losses and the people affected. Likewise, the FONCAT registers disaster victims and provides them with assistance.

2.4.2.3 – Closing of the consultation session with potential beneficiaries in Comè

The CCLC representative closed the session by commending the relevance of the discussions and the expertise demonstrated by the FNEC. He reiterated the commitment to systematically involve producers in the rest of the process, thereby ensuring local ownership of the future project.

The photos below illustrate some notable moments of the session in Comè.



2.4.3 – Field visit in Comè

The field visit took place in the village of Ouèdèmè. It provided an opportunity to observe the direct impact of climate change on a farm and a pineapple plantation, confirming the need for targeted interventions. The observations gathered will serve as an empirical basis for developing adaptation strategies.

A few photos capture the observations made during the field visit.











2.5 – Process and results of stakeholder consultations in Grand-Popo

2.5.1 – Courtesy call on the authorities of the Grand-Popo Town Hall

At 9:30 a.m., the delegation was welcomed by the Mayor of Grand-Popo for a discussion session in his office. After the customary courtesies and protocol greetings, the CCLC representative presented the purpose of their visit before giving the floor to the FNEC representative and the Consultant.

In his remarks, the FNEC representative first explained his institution's role in this CCLC-led project, then underlined the crucial importance of stakeholder consultation in developing a Concept Note.

The Consultant, for his part, highlighted the importance of the information to be collected from local communities, through his key points, specifying that details would be provided during the stakeholder consultation meeting, with a view to finalizing the concept note intended for the Adaptation Fund (AF).

The Mayor, in his capacity as vice-president of the CCLC, expressed satisfaction with the technical support provided by the FNEC and welcomed the project's significant progress. Reassured by this progress, he reaffirmed his full commitment to ensuring the success of this Concept Note development phase, then led the delegation to the Town Hall conference room to continue the work.

2.5.2 – Meeting with potential beneficiaries in Grand-Popo

The consultation with the potential beneficiaries of the Commune of Grand-Popo took place on Friday 25 April 2025, from 10:15 a.m. to 2:03 p.m., in the Town Hall's conference room. This session brought together forty-two participants, of whom 21.43% were women and two (02) were persons with disabilities. The full list of participants appears in annex 4 of this report.

The meeting was structured around two introductory addresses, followed by a data-collection session guided by the interview tool developed by the Consultant. To ensure the inclusive and active participation of all the producers present, the discussions were conducted simultaneously in French, Fon and Mina, thereby ensuring that all participants had a better understanding of the information.

2.5.2.1 – Opening addresses of the session

The session opened with an address by the representative of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC), who expressed his gratitude to the FNEC team for its technical support in developing the concept note, as well as to the participants for their presence. He explained that the fundamental objective of this project is to protect vulnerable populations and strengthen their resilience to climate change. To conclude his remarks, he warmly encouraged the participants to contribute actively to the discussions so that the concept note could incorporate relevant information that is representative of the local reality.

In his remarks, the FNEC representative first commended the dynamism shown by the CCLC representative and thanked the participants for the valuable time they were devoting to this consultation. After explaining the nature of the technical support provided by the FNEC to the CCLC in developing the concept note intended for the Adaptation Fund (AF), he underlined the vital importance of stakeholder contributions to finalising this strategic document. He concluded by urging the assembly to provide precise, contextualised answers to the questions that would be put to them during the consultation.

2.5.2.2 – Results of the consultations with potential beneficiaries in Grand-Popo

- **Perception of climate change by the potential beneficiaries met in Grand-Popo**

The participants' views on climate change were gathered across several aspects: the observed manifestations, extreme climate events, the identified causes of these changes, and their impacts on the local communities of the commune.

Manifestations of climate change in the Commune of Grand-Popo

The discussions revealed that the commune of Grand-Popo faces a multitude of climate hazards, such as: floods, late and irregular rains, extreme tidal oscillation phenomena (high and low tides), scarce rainfall, coastal and lagoon erosion, persistent drought, intense heatwaves and winds of increasing violence. These phenomena, whose frequency is intensifying considerably, are also accompanied by the worrying proliferation of animal species. These are the major challenges that local populations face in their daily lives:

- since 2024, a prolonged drought has caused an abnormal warming of the waters (lakes and sea), disrupting aquatic ecosystems.
- recurrent floods have affected the commune every year since 2010, with particularly severe events in 2010 and 2022. Against all expectations in this commune, the floods are in fact a positive factor for aquatic biodiversity here, generating strong growth in fish populations.
- the rising waters of Lake Ahémé since 2020 have been destroying riverside habitats and causing the lake to advance onto the surrounding land.
- between 1981 and 1982, the commune of Grand-Popo experienced major droughts that led to the drying up of Lake Ahémé.

Extreme climate events witnessed over the past five years in the Commune of Grand-Popo

The invited stakeholders witnessed at least one extreme climate event in their locality, and here are some of their testimonies.

Statement by a rice farmer on floods

*« The 2020 floods drowned our rice fields for a month. When the water withdrew, salt was everywhere. The land became barren. Before, we had three harvests a year; now, barely one. The local seeds used to be resistant, but today even the hybrid plants do not survive. Our granaries are empty, and the debts are piling up », **AHOUANSOU Mathieu,** farmer in Gbéhoué.*

Testimony of a Grand-Popo fisher on the benefits of floods

*« People only see the damage from the floods, but we, the fishers, know that they are vital. Since 2010, every flood brings millions of fry into Lake Ahémé. After the 2022 floods, our catches doubled for six months! The fresh water cleans the spawning grounds and brings nutrients. Of course, our huts are flooded, but that is the price to pay so that our children can still make a living from fishing. What we need are smart dikes that let the fish through while protecting our homes », **AGBAGLI Basile,** fisher in Grand-Popo.*

Causes of climate change in the Commune of Grand-Popo

The consultation participants identified several main causes explaining the climate change observed in the commune of Grand-Popo:

- destruction of fish spawning sites;
- intensive deforestation for domestic and agricultural needs;
- destruction of mangroves and mangrove trees for fuelwood by households;
- destruction of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;
- population growth and rapid urbanisation;
- use of plastic bags to package food;
- persistence in prohibited fishing practices;
- endogenous practices to divert the rain at times favourable to agriculture;
- anthropogenic pressures such as chemical pollution of watercourses through the dumping of toxic chemical products;
- use of chemical products near watercourses, which contaminates the species living in the water;
- systematic felling of trees to expand cultivable land.

Consequences of climate change in the Commune of Grand-Popo

The effects of climate disruption are profoundly transforming the commune of Grand-Popo, with severe repercussions for the environment and the population:

- **Accelerated degradation of ecosystems:**
  - loss of vegetation cover in the Delta-Mono;
  - alarming disappearance of fish species from the lakes and the sea;
  - progressive silting of the commune's watercourses;
  - disappearance of certain animal species such as the leatherback turtle, the manatee, caimans and antelopes;
  - loss of mangroves and forests.
- **Agricultural and food crisis:**

- disruption of the agricultural calendar;
- loss of seedlings,
- declining agricultural yields;
- recurrent destruction of crops;
- stunted growth of cultivated plants;
- alarming decline in food-crop production.

- **Major socio-economic impacts:**
  - impoverishment of households due to loss of income;
  - growing food insecurity;
  - spread of begging;
  - growing difficulty in keeping children in school;
  - resurgence of farmer-herder conflicts linked to transhumance.
- **Public health at risk:**
  - increase in waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrhoea, vomiting, etc.)
  - increase in psychological illnesses (depression, anxiety, etc.)
  - rise in metabolic diseases;
  - drownings of fishers caused by high tides.

Climate change resilience needs in the Commune of Grand-Popo

Faced with mounting climate challenges, the Commune of Grand-Popo requires a structured approach. In response to this situation, stakeholders identified the needs that would enable communities to become more resilient to climate change. These needs are organized around four priority areas of intervention, namely:

- **Sustainable water resource management**
  - a dredging programme to de-silt and restore lacustrine ecosystems, similar to the project ADELAC is currently carrying out in the Commune;
  - installation of durable infrastructure:
    - solar boreholes for multiple uses,
    - water reservoirs and ecological irrigation systems,
    - construction of clay dikes to hold back overflowing waters;
    - watering systems powered by renewable energy.
- **Securing production systems**
  - easy access to resilient inputs:
    - provision of adapted seeds to producers;
    - supply of regulation fishing gear (authorized nets for fishing).
  - modernization of practices:
    - development of solar-powered above-ground fish farming;
    - promotion of alternative livestock rearing (land crabs);
    - introduction of short-cycle fish species.
  - construction of resilient storage and marketing infrastructure
  - using manure as inputs;
  - adopting composting.
- **Protection and restoration of ecosystems**
  - active conservation of biodiversity:
    - creation of protected areas for fish species;
    - reforestation and forest protection programmes.
  - rehabilitation of degraded natural habitats.
- **Strengthening community capacities**
  - integrated training programme:
    - farmer field schools for agroecology,
    - workshops on sustainable fishing techniques (line fishing, passive fishing),
    - training in modern aquaculture.
  - awareness-raising campaigns on unsustainable practices;
  - establishment of a participatory monitoring and evaluation system.

Stakeholders, roles and responsibilities in the implementation of a project

The table below presents the stakeholders identified by the participants, along with their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project.

No.	Stakeholders/Actors	Roles and responsibilities
1	Town Hall	Training, activity monitoring, information relay and awareness-raising, support for initiatives and projects/programmes, dissemination of laws and regulations, support for all actors along the production chain, advocacy with the central Government, coordination in risk management
2	DGEFC	Awareness-raising during bushfire seasons, protection of mangroves and mangrove trees, regulation of wood cutting, monitoring of communities in the planting of wetland-resistant tree species
3	ATDA	Training, awareness-raising, relaying information, gathering information, monitoring and advisory support, promoting farmer field schools
4	ONG	Support to communities, awareness-raising on techniques to protect endangered habitats and species (fauna and flora), mobilization of resources to encourage populations to adopt more resilient behaviours.
5	Health workers	Raising public awareness about water- and faecal-borne diseases and good hygiene practices, treatment of wells and stagnant water.
6	Beneficiaries	Sharing information and knowledge, complying with climate-resilient production practices, promoting organic products on the market

- **Obstacles to the implementation of the project in the commune**

The main obstacles identified to implementing climate projects in the commune of Grand-Popo are:

- unbalanced participation of stakeholders (some groups underrepresented);
- absence of a formal framework for engaging riparian communities;
- lack of a platform for real-time information sharing;
- absence of a local institutional relay mechanism;
- weak transfer of skills to territorial actors;
- discontinuity in the financing of activities;
- limited technical capacities of local structures.

- **Management of extreme climate events**

The funds allocated to climate risk management prove insufficient to cover all disasters. As a result, the Town Hall:

1. **Mobilizes institutional partners**

Turns to the National Civil Protection Agency (ANPC) to address flood-prone areas, including Grand-Popo, classified as a high-risk commune.

2. **Strengthens prevention and awareness-raising**

Conducts information and outreach campaigns on the laws and regulations governing land use in the Republic of Benin.

3. **Supports disaster-affected populations**

- Collaborates with the Territorial Agency for Agricultural Development (ATDA) to:
  - Survey damaged plots and agricultural losses.
  - Identify affected persons for targeted assistance.
- Benefits from the support of NGOs, which step in to assist victims during crises.

2.5.2.3 - Closing of the consultation session with potential beneficiaries in Grand-Popo

The delegation reassured the participants that all these local realities would be taken into account in the concept note. In a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, the session ended at 2:03 p.m. with words of farewell from the representative of the CCLC and the representative of the FNEC.

The photos below illustrate some of the highlights of the session in Grand-Popo.



2.5.3 – Field visit in Grand-Popo

The field visit took place on a market-gardening site in the Grand-Popo Centre arrondissement. This visit made it possible to observe the direct impact of climate change on crops and the technology in place for water management.

A few photos capture the observations made during the field visit.



2.6 – Process and results of stakeholder consultations in Abomey-Calavi

2.6.1 – Courtesy call on the authorities of the Abomey-Calavi Town Hall

The mission team arrived at the Abomey-Calavi town hall on Monday 28 April 2025 at 8:30 a.m. On arrival, it was welcomed by the Mayor's Protocol Officer, who informed them that the Communal Council was in session. The Protocol Officer nonetheless notified the Mayor of the delegation's presence, and the Mayor designated his First Deputy to chair the session, which he would later come to close. The delegation, made up of the CCLC representative, the FNEC representative and the FNEC Consultant, was led to the Town Hall's Conference Room where the invited stakeholders were already waiting. The First Deputy to the Mayor then joined the team to open the session.

2.6.2 – Meeting with potential beneficiaries in Abomey-Calavi

The consultation with the potential beneficiaries of the Commune of Abomey-Calavi was held on Monday 28 April 2025 in the Town Hall's Conference Room, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:48 p.m. The event brought together forty-four (44) participants, of whom 29.55% were women and two (02) were persons with disabilities. The full list of participants appears in annex 5 of this report.

The session began with three speeches, followed by a structured information-gathering exercise based on the interview guide developed by the Consultant. To ensure the inclusive and active participation of all producers, the discussions were held in two languages: French and Fon.

2.6.2.1 - Opening speeches of the session

The session began with three successive speeches. The representative of the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC) spoke first, thanking the First Deputy to the Mayor for her availability despite a busy schedule, as well as the FNEC representative for the technical support his institution provides to the CCLC in developing the concept note. He introduced the CCLC, chaired by the Mayor of Abomey-Calavi and bringing together five communes, namely Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah, Kpomassè, Comè and Grand-Popo. After presenting the origins and objectives of the project, centred on protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening their resilience to climate change, he encouraged those present to participate actively so as to enrich the concept note with relevant data.

In his remarks, the FNEC representative thanked the First Deputy to the Mayor, the CCLC and all the participants. He recalled that the FNEC is an entity accredited with two major institutions financing climate initiatives: the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF). As an entity accredited with the AF, the FNEC provides technical support to the project led by the CCLC. He stressed the crucial importance of this information-gathering session for finalizing the concept note of the EDA dossier, insisting on the value of local testimonies reflecting communal realities.

Finally, the First Deputy to the Mayor, representing the Mayor who was unable to attend, expressed her gratitude to the Ministry of Living Environment and Transport (MCVT) and particularly to the FNEC for the technical support provided to the CCLC in applying for this financing from the AF. She underlined the importance of this support in mitigating the difficulties that climatic hazards impose on producers. Recalling that the purpose of the consultation was to gather essential information on local climate impacts to support the funding request, she urged the participants to show diligence and to contribute actively to the discussions before declaring the session open.

2.6.2.2 - Results of the consultations with potential beneficiaries in Abomey-Calavi

- **Perception of climate change by the potential beneficiaries met in Abomey-Calavi**

To understand the participants' perception of climate change, several aspects were explored: their observations of climatic manifestations, the extreme events they had experienced, the causes they attribute to these changes, and the impacts felt in their local communities.

Manifestations of climate change in the Commune of Abomey-Calavi

- The discussions showed that the commune is affected by multiple climatic hazards: high temperatures, excessively harsh sun, heat waves, floods, drought, irregular rainfall and violent winds, early cessation of the rains. The following are the main challenges the population faces:
- since 2023, a prolonged drought has caused an abnormal warming of the lake waters, disrupting aquatic ecosystems, and of soils that are too hot to support the growth of plants and crops.

- every year since 2020, exceptional floods have submerged certain arrondissements of the commune.

Extreme climate events witnessed over the past five years in the Commune of Abomey-Calavi

The invited stakeholders witnessed at least one extreme climate event in their locality, and here are a few testimonies. We have translated into French those given by speakers who expressed themselves in Fon.

Testimony of a person with disabilities

*« We, persons with disabilities, are the great forgotten victims of climate disasters. During the 2022 floods, the wheelchairs of some people with reduced mobility were stuck in the mud for several days. No one really helped them. The paths to the health centre are impassable, and aid distributions do not take our specific needs into account. We are calling for accessible emergency measures: adapted shelters, heat-resistant medical kits, and early-warning systems that we can understand », **HOUEDO Charles,** visually impaired, President of ASEHB.*

Statement by a livestock farmer on conflicts linked to transhumance

*« The droughts since 2024 have dried up the water points. Our animals travel 10 km to drink, and the farmers accuse us of destroying their fields. Last year, a conflict resulted in loss of human life. Nature is changing, and so are our rules of coexistence », **LEGBA Alexandre,** livestock farmer in Glo Djigbé.*

Statement by a fisher facing climate change

*« Before, the lake gave us everything. Today, it betrays us. Since 2023, the water has become so warm that the catfish and tilapia die before reaching market size. The 2022 floods swept away our nets and shifted the spawning areas. Now, even after entire nights in the pirogue, our catches no longer fill a bucket. Worse still, the plastic bags and chemicals in the water are killing what fish remain. Our children are abandoning fishing for the city », **ADINGBAN Olivier,** fisher in Ganvié.*

Causes of climate change in the Commune of Abomey-Calavi

According to the local actors consulted, the climate change observed in the commune of Abomey-Calavi stems from several factors:

- rapid population growth and runaway urbanization
- the persistence of unsustainable fishing practices, notably the Acadja technique;
- systematic deforestation for agricultural and residential expansion;
- traditional practices to divert rainfall to times favourable for agriculture;
- prohibited production practices, notably the use of carbide in fields to accelerate crop ripening;
- contamination of watercourses through the use of chemical products nearby;
- the burning of plastic waste by households.

Consequences of climate change in the Commune of Abomey-Calavi

In the grip of climate change, the commune of Abomey-Calavi is going through a crisis whose harmful fallout affects both ecosystems and the population. These are categorized as follows:

- **Accelerated degradation of ecosystems:**
  - disappearance of fishery species in watercourses;
  - disappearance of vegetation cover and the classified forests of the commune of Abomey-Calavi;
  - destruction of plant species essential to animal feed.
- **Agricultural and food crisis:**
  - disruption of the agricultural calendar;
  - declining agricultural yields;
  - recurrent destruction of crops due to the lack of livestock movement corridors;
  - disappearance of natural seeds, which are more resilient to climate change;
  - stunted growth of cultivated plants;
  - spread of diseases that attack the plants;
  - decline in agricultural and poultry production.
- **Major socio-economic impacts:**

- impoverishment of households due to loss of income;
- growing food insecurity;
- loss of animals;
- increased difficulty in meeting the essential needs of household members;
- resurgence of farmer-herder conflicts linked to early transhumance.

- **Public health at risk:**
  - resurgence of waterborne diseases such as cholera and various gastrointestinal ailments.

Climate change resilience needs in the Commune of Abomey-Calavi

Faced with these climate challenges, the stakeholders propose a multidimensional strategy built around 4 priority areas:

- **Sustainable water management and irrigation**
  - construction of water reservoirs to secure production;
  - deployment of sustainable irrigation systems;
  - promotion of off-season crops;
- **Ecosystem restoration and protection**
  - programme for dredging and rehabilitating the lakes;
  - creation of protected areas for fish species;
  - land management for agricultural areas in order to spare producers from certain losses;
  - a programme to identify and secure land suitable for market gardening;
  - aquatic biodiversity conservation projects.
- **Sustainable agricultural innovation**
  - air-conditioning of rabbit hutches for greater resilience of the animals;
  - mechanization of market-gardening work;
  - easy access to processing equipment and technologies that meet the standards for market-garden products;
  - promotion of agroecological practices;
  - promotion of fixed-cage fishing;
  - installation of floating cages in lake and lagoon areas;
  - promotion of farming in floating greenhouses on bodies of water;
  - Support for agroecological farming and optimization of product distribution;
  - development of greenhouse production to promote good yields;
  - construction of agricultural infrastructure adapted to persons with disabilities;
  - organization of farmer field schools for knowledge sharing.
- **Awareness-raising and capacity building**
  - education campaigns on non-resilient practices;
  - passing down endogenous knowledge on agricultural practices from generation to generation;
  - training in adapted cultivation techniques.

Stakeholders, roles and responsibilities in the implementation of a project

The table below presents the stakeholders identified by the participants, along with their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the project.

No.	Stakeholders / Actors	Roles and responsibilities
1	Town Hall	Training, activity monitoring, information relay and awareness-raising, support for initiatives, projects/programmes, and disaster management
2	ATDA	Agricultural advice on production itineraries and phytosanitary treatment, training on seed producers and input use, support in obtaining fingerlings and nets for fish farming, awareness-raising, information relay, information gathering, monitoring and advisory support, promotion of farmer field schools, subsidies for fish farming, support in the supply of raw materials and effective veterinary products, and subsidies for inputs for agroecological production.
3	ONG	Advisory support, testing of new techniques, material support, community support, awareness-raising on techniques to protect endangered habitats and species (fauna and flora), mobilization of resources to encourage populations to adopt more resilient behaviours
5	Beneficiaries	Sharing of information and knowledge, respecting climate-resilient production practices.

- **Obstacles to the implementation of the project in the commune**

The main obstacles identified to the implementation of climate projects in the commune of Abomey-Calavi are:

- unequal involvement of stakeholders in the process;
- a sense of marginalisation among certain key actors;
- insufficient coordination mechanisms between actors;
- discontinuity in the carrying out of actions;
- weak local ownership of initiatives;
- lack of clarity in the distribution of roles and responsibilities;
- insufficient communication about the project's benefits;
- weak synergy between the interventions of the different partners.

- **Traditional practices for weather prediction**

The consultation participants shared several ancestral practices for seasonal forecasting, while noting their declining reliability. The following table summarises the practices gathered.

Traditional / endogenous practices	Weather events
The appearance of earthworms	Herald the rainy season
The appearance of swallows	Herald the rainy season
Abundance of “tokpakpa” birds in Fon	Signals the start of sowing
Positioning of the iroko’s leaves turned towards the sky	Announces the beginning of the rainy season
The appearance of butterfly chrysalis moults	Signals the end of the rainy season
Reading of astral configurations and interpretation of lunar phases	Knowing which types of crops to sow

- **Management of extreme climate events**

The funds allocated to climate risk management are insufficient to cover all disasters. As a result, the Town Hall:

- mobilizes institutional partners to take charge of flood-prone areas;
- supports disaster-stricken populations by collaborating with the ATDA to:
  - record damaged plots and agricultural losses;
  - identify affected persons with a view to targeted assistance.
- benefits from the support of NGOs that intervene to assist victims during climate shocks.

2.6.2.3 – Closing of the consultation session with potential beneficiaries in Abomey-Calavi

The session was closed by the Mayor, who summed up the session and expressed his full satisfaction with the various contributions and the work accomplished in drafting the concept note. He assured the delegation of the availability of his institution's staff for finalizing the concept note to secure this financing, which will surely bring some relief to the hardworking population.

The photos below illustrate some highlights of the session in Abomey-Calavi.



2.6.3 – Field visit in Abomey-Calavi

The field visit took place at two sites, one in Akassato and the other in Zinvié. Visiting these sites made it possible to grasp the direct impact of climate change on crops, confirming the need for targeted interventions.

A few photos capture the observations made during the field visit.



3 – Summary of the manifestations, causes and consequences of climate change in the communes making up the CCLC

Communes	Climate change		
	Manifestations	**Causes**	**Consequences**
Ouidah	- More frequent annual flooding since 2014 - Locust/caterpillar invasion since 2020 - Prolonged drought since 2024 - Irregular rainfall and high temperatures - Emergence of pest species (birds and insects)	- Endogenous rituals dispersing the clouds - Destruction of mangroves and forests - Felling of trees for agriculture - Plastic and atmospheric pollution Urbanization	- Disruption of the agricultural calendar - Loss of crops/livestock - Farmer-herder conflicts - Destruction of infrastructure / habitats Food insecurity/diseases (e.g. malaria)
Kpomassè	- Persistent drought (since 2024) - Rising waters of Lake Ahémé (erosion of the banks) - Recurrent flooding since 2015 - Indistinct seasons - Proliferation of invasive species	- Endogenous rituals to control the rain - Destruction of mangroves - Disruptive infrastructure Archaic fishing techniques	- Decline in agricultural yields - Degradation of aquatic ecosystems (species disappearance) - Early transhumance/conflicts Rural exodus / poverty
Comè	- Drought and warming of the lakes (since 2024) - Exceptional flooding (since 2016) - Erosion of the riverbanks Violent winds and irregular rainfall	- Intensive deforestation - Exploitation of mangroves for fuelwood - Slash-and-burn farming - Chemical pollution of waters Incineration of waste	- Disappearance of fishery and plant species - Repeated agricultural losses - Food insecurity - Social conflicts and migrations Waterborne diseases
Grand-Popo	- Prolonged drought (warming of the waters) - Recurrent floods (since 2010) - Coastal and lagoon erosion Extreme tidal fluctuations	- Destruction of spawning grounds - Deforestation/urbanization - Destructive fishing practices - Plastic/chemical pollution Traditional/endogenous practices	- Disappearance of species (e.g. turtles and manatees) - Decline in agricultural yields - Begging and school dropout - Waterborne and psychological illnesses Drownings of fishers
Abomey-Calavi	- Drought (warming of the lakes and soils) - Floods in the districts Heatwaves and irregular rainfall	- Demographic pressure/urbanization - Unsustainable fishing (Acadja) - Deforestation - Use of carbides/toxic substances Incineration of waste	- Disappearance of fishery and forest species - Destruction of local crops and seeds - Farmer-herder conflicts - Waterborne diseases (e.g. cholera) Access difficulties for persons with disabilities

The table below shows that the five (05) communes of the CCLC (Ouidah, Kpomassè, Comè, Grand-Popo and Abomey-Calavi) experience similar recurring climate phenomena. These include prolonged droughts, increasingly irregular rainfall that disrupts agricultural cycles, and more frequent floods. These events mainly stem from human-induced pressures, such as intensive deforestation for agriculture and fuelwood production, pollution of soils and waters by plastics and chemicals, unsustainable agro-pastoral practices such as slash-and-burn and overfishing, and rapid urbanization that fragments ecosystems.

These pressures, exacerbated by climate change, have severe consequences. These include food insecurity due to repeated agricultural losses, the disappearance of key species such as manatees, fish and mangroves, heightened social conflicts due to early transhumance of livestock, and health crises such as cholera, malaria and psychological disorders linked to forced displacement.

Faced with these challenges, communities have identified the following as their priority needs:

- the deployment of sustainable, solar-powered irrigation systems;

- the active restoration of ecosystems through reforestation and lake dredging;
- the strengthening of local capacities through agroecology farmer field schools;
- the establishment of inclusive early warning systems, adapted to the needs of the most vulnerable people.

4 – Debriefing of the stakeholder consultation

As part of developing the concept note for the Adaptation Fund (AF), a series of stakeholder consultations were held from 22 to 28 April 2025 in the five communes that make up the Community of Coastal Lagoon Communes (CCLC).

Following each consultation session, the mission team met to analyze the methodology used, review the content of the discussions with stakeholders, and summarize the outcomes, with the aim of ensuring that contributions were consistent and optimally integrated. Please note that this debriefing section focuses on the consultation sessions with potential beneficiaries.

4.1 – Field approach and stakeholder engagement

- **Field approach**

All members of the mission team praised the success of this series of consultations, which was recognized across the board. The methodological approach was relevant and enabled the effective mobilization of resource persons, local actors, and facilitators, all of whom contributed significantly to the initiative's success. Participation in the consultation sessions with potential beneficiaries was strong, bringing together communal delegations comprising representatives of town halls, farmers, fishermen, poultry farmers, fish farmers, livestock farmers, NGOs, cooperatives, the state's decentralized institutions, and people with disabilities. Furthermore, the field visits provided an opportunity to observe the direct impact of climate change in various localities.

- **Stakeholder engagement**

The mission team noted a strong commitment from the potential beneficiaries, who actively contributed to the discussions by answering the questions posed. Both men and women, persons with disabilities, as well as officials and producers, spoke openly and freely to express their needs regarding resilience practices. Based on the responses received, the consultant expressed his deep satisfaction with the conduct of the sessions. The participants indicated their willingness to provide further information if required.

4.2 – Substance of the discussions

Overall, the following information emerges from the answers provided by the invited actors who took part in these various sessions:

- All five communes that make up the CCLC have experienced various climate phenomena, such as ***floods, violent winds, intense sunshine, irregular rainfall and prolonged droughts***.
- The manifestations of climate change have resulted in: ***(i) crop destruction and yield decline, (ii) human and livestock losses, (iii) socio-community infrastructure destruction, (iv) agricultural calendar disruption, and (v) fishery, plant and animal species disappearance***.
- The actors recommended using more appropriate resilience technologies in each production area and organizing farmer field schools.
- The involvement of all stakeholders at every stage of various projects and programmes intended for each locality;
- Discouraging the practice of blocking or diverting rain during favorable agricultural production times.

5 – Conclusion

Engaging all stakeholders was a crucial step in developing the concept note for submission to the Adaptation Fund, and it proved to be a resounding success. It enabled constructive and enriching exchanges, allowing the team to gather information on each locality’s climate realities and resilience practices, as well as concrete commitments from local stakeholders. These consultations provided the team with an in-depth understanding of local realities, thereby establishing a solid empirical basis for aligning the needs of the beneficiaries with the strategic objectives of the concept notes.

Satisfied with the results, the consultation team expressed its gratitude to all members of the delegation for their commitment and valuable contributions. They encouraged the team to maintain this collaborative momentum for future steps.

Overall, this mission was a vital step toward finalizing the concept note, enabling the CCLC to access AF financing and achieve its goal of protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening their resilience to climate change.

6 – Annexes

6.1 – Annex 1: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Ouidah



6.2 – Annex 2: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Kpomassè



6.3 – Annex 3: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Comè



6.4 – Annex 4: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Grand-Popo



6.5 – Annex 5: List of participants in the consultation with potential beneficiaries in Abomey-Calavi

