

Project Completion Summary

Program

adapta2⁺

Reducing vulnerability by focusing on critical sectors (agriculture, water resources and coastal areas) to lessen the negative impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of these sectors

National Implementing Entity



ADAPTATION FUND



Fundecooperación
para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Period: 2015-2023



Explanatory note

This is a report prepared by Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development, legal ID 3-006-160709, for the Adaptation Fund.

The photographs included in this report correspond to people benefiting from the Adapta2+ Program and to field activities carried out by the Implementing Entities (IE) during the implementation period.

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Section A: Project result and performance

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Program beneficiaries: Socorro Navarrete and Jorge Acuña. Location: Alajuela, Upala.

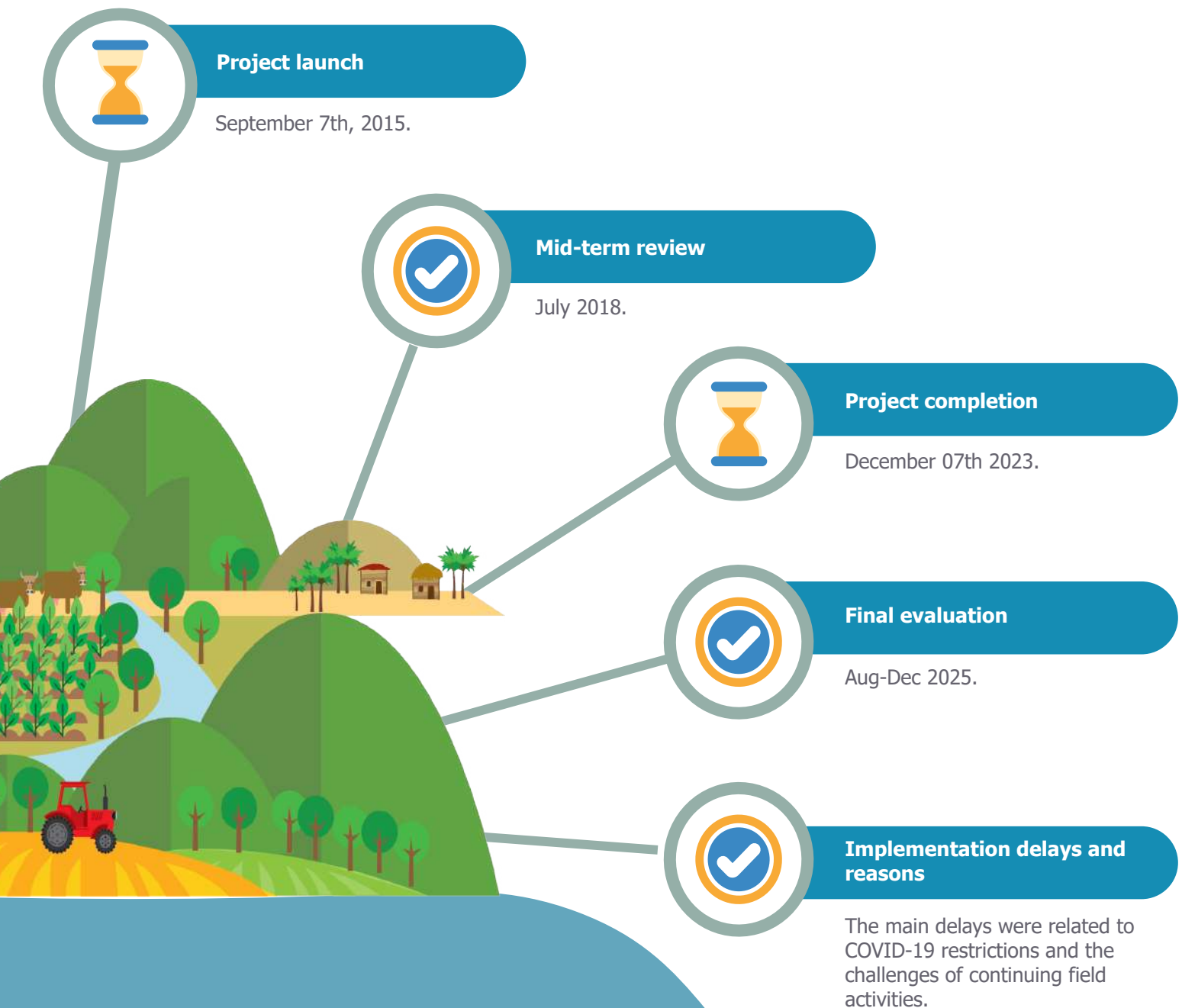
Section A: Project result and performance

1. Basic information

Title of project/programme	Reducing the vulnerability by focusing on critical sectors (agriculture, water resources, and coastlines) to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of these sectors.
Programme category	Regular Size.
Programme Approval	October 10th, 2014.
Project start	September 7th, 2015.
Original Completion Date	September 7th, 2021.
Extension 1	April 7th, 2022.
Extension 2	December 7th, 2023.
End date after extension	December 7th, 2023.
Country	Costa Rica.
Sectors	Agriculture, Water Resources and Coastlines.
Implementing entity name	Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development.
Implementing Entity	National Implementing Entity.
Executing Entities	Public institutions (such as MAG, MINAE, IMN, CNE and others), private institutions, academia, NGOs, and other organizations selected in accordance to the programme screening methodology established by the National Implementing Entity.
Amount of financing approved (USD)	USD 9,97 million.
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Date of report	December 2024.

Section A: Project result and performance

2. Key milestones



Section A: Project result and performance

3. Project overview and description

Between 2015 and 2023, Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible implemented the Adapta2+ Program, thanks to a USD \$9.970.000 grant from the Adaptation Fund. The program aimed to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change in critical sectors of Costa Rica—agriculture, water resources, and coastal zones—and in the communities that depend on them. It was implemented with the support of the Climate Change Directorate (DCC) of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

Three integrated axes were defined with their objectives and key results:



Agricultural Sector:

Increasing the capacity to adapt to climate change in the agricultural sector.

Its result is to strengthen agricultural productivity in response to climate change, in order to reduce soil loss and improve water management.



Water Resources and Coastal Zones

Improving water resource management to increase the resilience of coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change.

It seeks to maintain the availability of water resources for human consumption and reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities through community participation in the protection of critical ecosystems.



Capacity Building

Strengthening capacities related to climate change risks, in order to improve the level of preparedness of stakeholders.

It aims to enable communities, producers, institutions and stakeholders to improve their capacity to adapt to climate change by developing and improving information, awareness and skills related to socio-economic and environmental risks.

In the agricultural sector, the program developed and implemented technological options and adaptive methods tailored to the specific conditions of each region, ensuring their validation and application in the field. Access to technical financing was promoted to facilitate the adoption of these solutions within local communities, contributing to the sustainability of production practices in the face of climate change impacts.

In the area of water resources and coastal zones, water security plans were established and implemented by community water management systems (ASADAS) to improve water resource management and ensure its availability in the short and long term. Integrated water management strategies were also implemented, promoting its efficient use and the protection of aquatic ecosystems. In the coastal zone, coastal protection and restoration measures were designed and implemented. Furthermore, an integrated management plan for marine and coastal resources was developed. Finally, strategies were promoted for the conservation and recovery of mangroves, as well as the restoration of coral reefs.

In the capacity building component, actions were implemented to strengthen community preparedness through the creation and consolidation of early warning systems, risk reduction protocols, and adaptation strategies in key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and areas. Institutional capacities were strengthened for the systematic monitoring of climate change, ensuring the generation of technical information that facilitates decision-making and the preparation of stakeholders for significant meteorological phenomena and gradual changes in the climate.

For climate change adaptation measures to be effective and sustainable, they had to be integrated with economic and social benefits, facilitating their acceptance and replication by other groups. Promoting adaptation measures was key to their incorporation into public policies, ensuring their impact at the national level and their long-term sustainability.

Section A: Project result and performance

4. Results and key outcomes

The Adapta2+ program implemented a total of 58 projects across Costa Rica's five socioeconomic regions, in partnership with 39 implementing organizations. The program achieved a significant impact on the communities. By the end of its implementation, it had exceeded the established targets for beneficiaries in each component.

4.1. Beneficiaries by component

Beneficiary persons direct costs per component		Projection	Achieved	% of women
1	Agricultural producers	1.000	6.037	24%
	Skilled technical personnel	1.000	2.718	33%
2	Direct beneficiaries	1.000	6.510	30%
	People with infrastructure improvements for water supply	25.000	50.757	50%
3	Skilled people	3.000	12.227	24%
	Decision-makers and technical personnel strengthened their knowledge in climate risk assessment and planning processes for climate change adaptation	NA	1.121	9%
Indirect beneficiaries		NA	1.244.365	49%

The total number of indirect beneficiaries of the program was 1.244.365 (49% women and 22% young people). This represents almost a quarter of Costa Rica's population.

4.2. Protected or rehabilitated natural assets

With regard to the key indicator of protected or rehabilitated natural assets, the program achieved:

30.281 **Hectares of watershed improved** through the implementation of practices sustainable management.



264 Protected **aquifers**.



1.169 **Hectares reforested** in aquifer recharge zones.



10.076 **Hectares with climate change adaptation measures** applied.



Within the framework of the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems, the program exceeded the established goal of 8 km of coast and beaches in protected areas, reaching:

38,9km **Coastal interventions** through processes of redesign and reforestation.



25 **Hectares of mangrove reforested in Gandoca**, fulfilling the stated objective, including areas within the Gandoca-Manzanillo National Wildlife Refuge.



Section A: Project result and performance

4.3. Creation and strengthening of assets

The program achieved significant results in terms of creating and strengthening assets that directly support climate change adaptation in communities. Infrastructure assets refer to physical or constructed works (such as irrigation systems, water reservoirs, coastal protection works, among others) designed to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Strengthening, on the other hand, refers to existing infrastructure that was improved or adapted to ensure better performance under extreme weather conditions. In total, the following were generated:

1.018



New assets
of infrastructure.

686



Existing **infrastructure** was
strengthened.

Additionally, the program enabled the creation and improvement of service assets. These assets do not correspond to physical infrastructure, but rather to mechanisms, capacities, and management tools that strengthen institutional and community resilience. These include: improvements to regulatory frameworks and climate-related laws, disease control programs linked to climate variability, strengthening of agricultural extension capacities, implementation of climate-based insurance, and improvements to food security systems. These services complement infrastructure investments, ensuring a comprehensive approach to adaptation. During Adapta2+, the following was achieved:

482



New assets
service.

1.210



Hectares of
rehabilitated
natural assets.

194



Assets of
service
improved.

4.4. Benefits in the agricultural sector

Among these strategic investments, the program focused particularly on agricultural and livestock farms. In the livestock sector, solar panels and electric fences were installed to optimize rotational grazing systems, along with the construction of watering troughs and water distribution systems to ensure continuous access to water. In the agricultural sector, sustainable greenhouses were built and efficient irrigation systems, such as drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation, were implemented, improving food security in rural areas. In addition, rainwater harvesting systems were installed on various farms, and windmills were used to pump water from wells, ensuring supply during dry periods.

1.753



Farms
beneficiaries
through the program.

13



Agroecological
zoning maps
developed,
providing key
information for land
planning and the
selection of
more resistant crops.

100



Producers
with access to
facilitated climate
credit,
boosting
investments
in infrastructure
and sustainable
practices.

Section A: Project result and performance

4.5. Results in risk management

Within the framework of the key indicator for the creation of **Early Warning Systems (EWS)**, the program implemented two systems to improve response to fires and floods. One of these **integrates real-time information from the National Meteorological Institute (IMN) to reduce the impact of fires on protected areas and nearby communities**. Additionally, in collaboration with the IMN, risks were assessed in more than 10 cantons, notably the implementation of an **Early Warning System (EWS) in Nosara, a coastal community in the Chorotega region highly vulnerable to flooding**. This EWS was developed in coordination with municipal authorities, strengthening the capacity to respond to extreme weather events.

4.6. Capacity Building

In the capacity building component:

24.909



Trained beneficiaries
(37% women).

37



Risk maps developed, enabling communities and local authorities to identify vulnerable areas and make informed decisions.

784



Local organizations benefited
from training and technical assistance.

25



Hydrometeorological stations installed, strengthening climate monitoring capacity and providing key data for the prevention of extreme events and the management of natural resources.

806



Adaptation materials developed, including guides, manuals, and case studies.

4.7. Impact on indigenous and rural communities

The program's success also stemmed from identifying specific needs in indigenous and rural communities, promoting a participatory approach from project planning to implementation. One of the most noteworthy projects in this regard was the support for food security in the Talamanca-Valle de la Estrella indigenous territory, led by INDER with the backing of Adapta2+ and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). This initiative strengthened the resilience of the Cabécar and Bribri communities to climate change. In this region, which has the lowest human development index in the country, family farming and integrated farm management were promoted, incorporating ancestral knowledge into a best practices manual.

528



Indigenous people (48% women) improved their food selfsufficiency.

841,4



Hectares of land rehabilitated, reducing dependence on external purchases.

Section A: Project result and performance

4.8. Adoption of the term adaptation to Climate Change in productive sectors

Before the implementation of the Adapta2+ Program, the concept of climate change adaptation was not fully integrated into the strategies of many productive and institutional sectors in Costa Rica. In particular, for actors such as dairy producer associations and agricultural organizations, climate change was a new issue, and discussions about adaptation were absent from their strategic plans. Initially, a significant effort was needed to raise awareness and persuade stakeholders, demonstrating how adaptation should be considered a fundamental pillar alongside mitigation.

Throughout the program, this perception evolved significantly. Currently, key stakeholders in the agricultural sector have incorporated adaptation as a strategic priority, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) has integrated the issue across all its policies and discourse. This shift demonstrates that Adapta2+ not only implemented concrete adaptation projects but also generated a structural impact on how climate adaptation is understood and prioritized at the institutional and production levels.

Strategic alliances with multiple stakeholders were a key pillar of the program. They enabled not only capacity building but also the mobilization of additional resources and the long-term sustainability of the initiatives. Inter-institutional collaboration has proven to be an effective way to overcome the limitations of public funding and expand the reach of the initiatives.

In general terms, Adapta2+ demonstrated that focusing on people's well-being, strengthening the capacity of small producers and fishers, especially women and local markets, is key to their resilience.

4.9. Final implementation status

Component, products and expected results	Final status
Component: 1. Agricultural sector Increase the capacity to adapt to climate change in the agricultural sector (including agriculture and livestock). Expected products: 1.1. A variety of technical options and methods resilient to the effects of Climate Change, developed, validated and implemented in the agricultural sector according to the area. 1.2. Technical financial support promoted for the adoption of technical options generated in local communities. Expected results: Strengthening agricultural productivity in response to climate change, in order to reduce soil loss and improve water management.	Agricultural productivity was strengthened through the following: ➤ 6.037 direct beneficiary producers (24% women). ➤ 2.718 technical beneficiaries trained in adaptation practices. ➤ 13 agroecological zoning maps. ➤ 1.753 agricultural farms implemented adaptation measures, with their adaptation plans. ➤ 2 online platforms with up-to-date information on adaptation technologies and zoning scenarios. ➤ 2.180 adaptation practices carried out on farms. ➤ 80 school farms for demonstration of adaptation measures. ➤ 841,4 ha in indigenous territory implemented climate actions in their agricultural activities. ➤ 14 initiatives with access to credit plans for the implementation of adaptation activities. ➤ 4 financial inclusion mechanisms for small local producers to facilitate their adaptation to climate change.

Section A: Project result and performance

Component, products and expected results	Final status
Component: 2. Coastal areas sector - water resources Improving water resource management to increase the resilience of coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change. Expected products: 2.1. Development and implementation of water safety plans. 2.2. Integrated, efficient and effective management of water resources. 2.3. Integrated management of the coastal zone. Expected results: The availability of water resources for human consumption is maintained and the vulnerability of coastal communities is reduced through community participation in the protection of critical ecosystems (e.g., mangroves, watersheds and coastal areas).	It contributed to the availability of water resources and the vulnerability of the communities was reduced in coastal areas through: ➤ 6.510 beneficiaries (30,4% women, 33% young people). ➤ 155 ASADAS assessed their vulnerability and implemented adaptation actions. ➤ 12 community water safety committees formed. ➤ 50.856 water users benefited (50,2% women). ➤ 6 measures implemented for watershed protection. ➤ 30.281,87 hectares of watershed improved. ➤ 1.169,29 ha of aquifer recharge reforested. ➤ 264 protected aquifers. ➤ 50.757 people benefited from infrastructure improvements for water supply. ➤ 88 communities with infrastructure improvements for their water supply. ➤ 2 financial mechanisms available for the implementation of climate change adaptation measures. ➤ 3.184 coastal residents prepared and trained to face the impacts of climate change. ➤ 68 coastal communities implemented at least one adaptation measure. ➤ 38,9 km of coastline in protected areas were restored and reforested. ➤ 7 coastal communities implemented reforestation programs. ➤ 25 hectares of mangrove restored. ➤ 2 coastal communities implemented a mangrove tree nursery. ➤ 2 coastal communities carried out coral restoration.

Section A: Project result and performance

Component, products and expected results	Final status
Component: 3. Capabilities Improve the capacity of communities, producers, institutions and other stakeholders with regard to adaptation to climate change. Expected products: 3.1. Improving community preparedness through the development and consolidation of early warning systems, risk reduction and protocols for agriculture, water resources and coastal areas related to climate change. 3.2. Communities, farmers, institutions and stakeholders are aware of and informed about the risks related to climate change and trained regarding the corresponding adaptation measures. 3.3. Strengthening institutional capacities for the systematic monitoring of climate change, in order to prepare and inform stakeholders about the development of significant weather phenomena and gradual changes. Expected results: The communities, the producers, the information, awareness and skills related to socioeconomic risks and Institutions and stakeholders enhance their climate change adaptation capacities through the development and improvement of related environmental aspects.	Adaptability was improved to CC of communities, producers, institutions and stakeholders through: ➤ 2 Early Warning Systems (EWS) implemented. ➤ 1 risk mapping and incident management system for forest fires. ➤ 88 communities trained. ➤ 24.909 people participated in awareness events. (37% women). ➤ 1.231 decision-makers and technical staff strengthened their knowledge of climate risk assessment and climate change adaptation planning processes. ➤ 806 adaptation materials were developed, including videos, guides, manuals, case studies, and others. ➤ 6.223 beneficiaries are using the improved information on climate risks. (40,4% women). ➤ 25 new weather stations and information platforms installed and operational. ➤ 594 allied organizations that supported the project and adaptation actions in their area of influence. ➤ 784 beneficiary organizations (of these, 325 are community-based).

Section A: Project result and performance

5. Issues, challenges and mitigation measures

5.1. Coordination of implementing entities

Coordinating 39 implementing entities presented a significant challenge to program management, requiring a robust organizational framework to ensure coherence in implementation. To address this challenge, communication and continuous monitoring mechanisms were established, along with ongoing technical assistance and flexibility in execution.

5.2. Access to climate information

Another major challenge was access to climate information, as restrictions on data availability from the National Meteorological Institute (IMN) hampered the planning and execution of projects that relied on detailed analyses of climate patterns. Although access to the information was eventually achieved, the project had to develop alternative tools, a process that took additional time and caused implementation delays.

5.3. COVID-19

The arrival of COVID-19 was the most significant impact on the implementation of Adapta2+. The pandemic caused delays in activities due to mobility restrictions and the suspension of meetings and fieldwork.

One of the projects most affected was Tu MoDeLo (Tourism as a Driver of Local Development), which promoted connections between small-scale farmers and the tourism sector, encouraging the sale of local products in hotels and restaurants. With the temporary halt in tourism and the drastic reduction in economic activity, the project was unable to continue its proposed production chain. In response, Adapta2+ revived the initiative when economic activity began to recover, but the disruption during the pandemic significantly delayed its progress.

The impact of the pandemic was also felt in all program activities. To mitigate its effects, Adapta2+ implemented measures such as digitizing training and technical assistance, and relocating workshops and training sessions on virtual platforms to ensure knowledge transfer. Furthermore, they made adjustments to the

execution deadlines, making schedules more flexible to avoid the paralysis of projects and adapt to the conditions imposed by the health crisis.

5.4. Change of government and rotation of institutional representatives

The relationship with some national authorities presented another challenge in the program's development. The constant turnover of institutional representatives was a recurring problem, with four different government administrations in place over the more than 10 years that Fundecooperación managed the program from its inception to its closure. While stable collaboration was maintained with some institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the constant staff turnover in others hindered continuity, forcing the program to restart awareness-raising processes and begin new coordination efforts on multiple occasions.

Each change in leadership involved re-establishing contacts and reintroducing the adaptation agenda, which slowed the implementation of initiatives, especially in areas where the new authorities had less knowledge of or interest in the issue. A particular challenge was engaging the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), whose participation in the program was affected by these transitions.

5.5. Gender equality

Regarding gender equality, particularly in the agricultural sector, barriers to women's participation were identified. Women typically focused their initiatives on the commercial sphere and, in many cases, preferred that their partners apply for loans. To address this situation, the "More Women, More Natura" program was created to facilitate women's direct access to financing.

5.6. Environmental and social risks

To manage these risks, Fundecooperación implemented the Social and Environmental Management Plan, an instrument developed in compliance with its Policy Social, Environmental and Gender and in accordance with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund. This plan established specific prevention and mitigation measures for each identified risk, addressing aspects such as the proximity of agricultural activities to protected areas, the introduction of invasive species in

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reforestation processes, inadequate waste management, and the potential exacerbation of inequalities among vulnerable groups, among others.

6. Lessons learned

The Adapta2+ Program prioritized a people-centered approach, ensuring that climate adaptation had a direct impact on vulnerable communities. This was the key to its success. The decision to hold an open call for proposals allowed work to be carried out in all seven socioeconomic regions of Costa Rica, maximizing territorial reach and integrating a wide range of local actors in project implementation, as well as promoting the dissemination of the program's benefits to other local actors who were not directly involved in the initiatives.

6.1. Success factors identified in the mid-term evaluation

The mid-term evaluation (MTE) identified the main factors that had contributed positively to the program's performance up to that point. Among these factors, Fundecooperación's programmatic approach and convening capacity proved to have a very positive impact on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of adaptation measures. Beyond its administrative role, Fundecooperación demonstrated its strong ability to identify and foster collaboration among the various stakeholders who need to coordinate their efforts around adaptation action, as well as its versatility and flexibility in project implementation.

6.2. Operational challenges and external events

While the strategy of involving numerous Implementing Entities broadened the impact, it also presented challenges. Not all projects were successful, and some faced administrative or financial difficulties that affected their implementation. The program's efficiency was hampered by some implementing organizations with less operational capacity, which was one of the main causes of program delays in its early years of implementation. This also required the dedication of additional resources by the Implementing Entity to support capacity building in some EE. Added to these factors are Hurricane Nate and Tropical Storm Otto, disasters that delayed the execution of activities.

Another external event that demanded significant adaptive management was the COVID-19 pandemic. Health restrictions and social distancing measures forced a rethinking of support, technical assistance, and training strategies. To ensure the continuity of activities and community access to the program, it was necessary to implement additional actions aimed at strengthening participants' technological capabilities, including providing tools and connectivity, as well as training in the use of virtual platforms and online communication. This experience highlighted the importance of incorporating flexible solutions in crisis contexts that allow for maintaining ties with communities and ensuring their effective participation.

These challenges highlighted the importance of better assessing the operational capacity of organizations before allocating resources to them, strengthening those with less structure beforehand to ensure effective implementation.

In a scaling-up stage, the solution to this problem is not to exclude these organizations from the program, but to incorporate them as partners under the coordination of a better-performing implementing entity and allocate resources for the development of their organizational capacities.

This approach allows emerging groups representing priority communities to access technical and operational expertise, thereby increasing their capabilities without compromising project efficiency.

6.3. Cross-cutting incorporation of soils and seeds

Another key finding during the program's development was the lack of visibility of soil as an essential natural resource for adaptation. Although the program's projects incorporated soil conservation measures from the outset, it was recognized that work in this area needed strengthening. Therefore, a partnership was established with the Costa Rican Soil Science Association to integrate cross-cutting actions. Similarly, the program identified that, to complement its work on food security, adaptation required proper seed management, not only in terms of availability but also in the identification, conservation, and selection of seeds more resilient varieties, as well as the recovery of native and local varieties, through community seed banks.

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Based on these observations, the program redirected its efforts toward soil and seeds in the second phase of implementation. In the case of seed work, these initiatives also generated new projects where the participation of Indigenous communities and rural women's groups was paramount.

6.4. Featured example: San Carlos Rural Women's Network

For example, the Adapta2+ Program supported initiatives such as that of the San Carlos Rural Women's Network, which works to conserve native seeds through a food sovereignty and sustainability approach. This organization, made up of 60 women, has developed a "seed sanctuary" to preserve traditional varieties and promote their use in agroecological production. Through the program, participants received training in drying and storage techniques, strengthening their knowledge and ensuring the quality of the genetic material. This initiative highlights the historical link between women and agriculture, emphasizing their key role in protecting biodiversity and ensuring the food security of their communities.

6.5. Knowledge management and peer learning

One of the main lessons learned in knowledge management in the agricultural sector is that the producer himself becomes the best Information and knowledge disseminator: the one who adopts the practices, observes the results, and directly transmits their experience. Through field days and training sessions, the producers strengthened their capacities and subsequently shared knowledge among peers, motivating each other to implement the practices they had learned. These good practices for adapting to climate change in agriculture and livestock farming now have a consolidated path, supported by data and technical evidence, which has allowed their continuity throughout four government administrations belonging to different political trends.

6.6. Paradigm shift and initial resistance

Adapta2+ demonstrated that the agricultural sector is indeed capable of transitioning and adapting, challenging paradigms and overcoming negative perceptions historically associated with agricultural activity. However, the process involved confronting resistance to change, the need to unlearn ingrained practices, having the necessary technical and economic resources, and overcoming the initial distrust of communities—all essential elements for achieving genuine sector involvement. Component 3 of the Program was a key factor in addressing these challenges.

6.7. Improvement in selection and commitment processes

Regarding areas for improvement, the selection of beneficiary individuals or organizations and the commitments they undertake stand out, as changes in project staff and some organizations in particular caused delays and interruptions in projects. The agreements and their penalty clauses for non-compliance were insufficient to prevent all situations. This resulted in some beneficiaries abandoning projects, which negatively impacted the program's proper implementation.

6.8. Youth participation: challenges and opportunities

During the project's development, low youth participation in adaptation activities was also identified. To address this challenge, Adapta2+ integrated specific initiatives to promote their involvement. An example of this occurred in the Chorotega region, where the program joined the Water Guardians project, an initiative that allowed high school students to participate in the monitoring and community management of water resources. This collaboration added a climate change adaptation approach to the actions already implemented by AyA, local municipalities and private companies, strengthening awareness and youth leadership in water protection and climate change preparedness.

Adapta2+ also partnered with the organization Raising Coral to develop the Coral Gardeners project in the Brunca and Huetar Atlántica regions. This initiative trained young people in coral farming techniques of coral reef restoration and conservation, providing them with training opportunities and access to economic alternatives in areas

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with significant socioeconomic challenges. These actions not only boosted youth participation in climate change adaptation, but also strengthened their role in building more resilient communities.

As part of the final awareness and accountability activities, a very interesting effect was achieved by developing cultural activities with adaptation actions that had been developed by Adapta2+. Cultural activities included contests for young people, such as a song contest to select the program's official song, "Sin dejar a nadie atrás," and a mural contest using AI. Activities were held in shopping malls with games, workshops, and family-oriented activities to promote adaptation measures. Finally, a tour of plays focused on climate change adaptation, featuring real-world examples from Adapta2+, included 30 performances in primary and secondary schools in rural areas and the greater Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM), reaching 10,000 students. These actions strengthened accountability through a participatory, inclusive, and educational approach, reaching young audiences, bringing the program's results closer to the public, and reinforcing the community's understanding of adaptation.

6.9. Strengthen knowledge management mechanisms and organizational capacity in EE and EIN.

The staff changes in both the EE and the EIN throughout the implementation of Adapta2+ were a challenge in ensuring that the projects and activities were not affected, nor the fulfillment as a Program. Furthermore, the learning curve for individuals and organizations regarding the application of the Adaptation Fund rules is long and complex, and staff changes have created challenges and required the allocation of additional resources. Organizational knowledge management mechanisms are crucial to ensuring that knowledge transcends the organization and that it is not dependent on specific individuals.

6.10. Corrective actions during the Implementation

To ensure the achievement of the results and broaden the scope, some changes were made during implementation. For example, two indicators were modified; one was changed from "At least 50 ASADAS and 2 municipalities have implemented a Water Security Plan/Watershed Management Plans" to "At least 50 ASADAS and 2 municipalities have implemented adaptation actions to improve access to water in their communities." Furthermore, to regain the pace of implementation, Direct Implementation Services (DES) were required, which proved crucial in overcoming challenges in the execution of some projects.

6.11. Good practices

Among the highlighted good practices is the importance of constant coordination between the EE and the NIE, which not only favored proper governance, but also strengthened transparency in the process. Similarly, semi-annual financial monitoring was key to ensuring responsible management and the correct use of resources.

In response to one of the environmental challenges identified in the program, Adapta2+'s contribution to the transition towards the use of native species with a relevant ecosystemic role, especially in reforestation processes, can be highlighted as a good practice.

Finally, the changes brought about by the pandemic demonstrated that virtual platforms can be a viable alternative for implementing activities when necessary. However, in projects with a strong local component, this approach presents limitations and challenges that must be considered.

In short, beyond its role as an implementer, Fundecooperación's strategic, innovative, facilitative, and synergy-generating approach proved to be a key element in filling the existing gap in the application of the climate adaptation concept in Costa Rica. Furthermore, the Adapta2+ program served as a catalyst for the country's climate agenda, facilitating institutional connections and opening doors that stakeholders would have taken much longer to achieve independently.

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7. Innovation

7.1. Strategic alliances and synergies

The innovations implemented in the Adapta2+ Program were reflected in a wide variety of projects, from strengthening rural communities to creating financial tools specialized. One of the program's highlights was its ability to generate strategic alliances and synergies, allowing initiatives to have a broader and more sustainable impact. Instead of developing isolated projects, Adapta2+ integrated its actions with existing programs and networks, ensuring that climate change adaptation was incorporated into initiatives with a proven track record and established reputation.

One of the clearest examples of this strategy was the identification of and cooperation with official programs, such as the Blue Flag Ecological Program (PBAE). This program, which already had a consolidated structure for promoting sustainability in communities, educational centers, and productive sectors, was strengthened by the incorporation of climate adaptation criteria. Through this collaboration, Adapta2+ was able to broaden its reach, integrating climate resilience within an institutional framework recognized by producers, thus facilitating the adoption of adaptation measures at the local level.

7.2. INNOVAGRO 2019 Award: Social Innovation category

The program's innovative approach was also internationally recognized for its contribution to social innovation. The project, developed with the Cabécar and Bribri indigenous communities and led by the National Institute for Rural Development (INDER) in partnership with Aditibri and Aditica, received the 2019 INNOVAGRO Award. This recognition stemmed from the way Adapta2+ promoted climate adaptation in indigenous family farming by valuing traditional agricultural knowledge and integrating it with innovative, resilient practices. Among the implemented projects are the installation of 4 biodigesters, 12 rainwater harvesting systems, living fences, 16 greenhouses, and the development of a manual of ancestral Bribri and Cabécar good practices, documented in a participatory manner together with guardians of ancestral knowledge.

Additionally, 176 ancestral farm management plans were developed through a participatory process to identify climate-related strengths and weaknesses. These plans serve as management tools for use with other institutions and as instruments for continuous improvement. These actions, among others, reflect the social and technical innovation that underpinned the project's recognition.

7.3. Specialized financial tools

Another key aspect of innovation within the program was the development of financial tools tailored to the needs of producers. Adapta2+ promoted the creation of agricultural insurance linked to climate adaptation, offering better conditions to those who implemented resilience measures on their farms. The adoption of these practices reduced the risk of losses, which generated greater confidence in the National Insurance Institute (INS) to provide coverage on more favorable terms to small producers, thus incentivizing investment in sustainable climate adaptation strategies.

Furthermore, through Fundecooperación, financial products such as Agricultura Pro+Clima and Ganadería Pro+Clima were designed, facilitating access to credit for investments in sustainable practices and climate action. These initiatives not only promoted the transformation of production systems but also provided tangible incentives for producers to commit to more resilient and sustainable long-term models.

The program sought to establish a similar mechanism for Community Water and Sewerage System Management Associations (ASADAS), facilitating access to financing for priority investments in infrastructure and water resilience. However, it encountered a legal limitation restricting these organizations to obtaining loans only from the national banking system. To compensate for this restriction, projects were chosen that would make direct investments in some ASADAS, as well as promote the implementation of the Water Protection Tariff, a mechanism that allows them to include a fee in their bills for the conservation and protection of water sources.

Section A: Project result and performance

7.4. Incorporation of technologies

The program incorporated various technologies, including new weather stations and information platforms, an early warning system (EWS) accompanied by a mobile application, as well as a risk mapping and incident management system for forest fires that operates in 9 of the country's 11 protected areas.

In addition, innovative educational materials were developed, including a video game about climate change aimed at children, a training guide on adaptation to climate change, virtual field visits, videos, case studies, among other resources that strengthen awareness and learning.

7.4 Innovative mechanisms for knowledge dissemination: Expo Adapta2+

Adapta2+'s innovative approach to accountability breaks with traditional results reporting models, transforming transparency into a participatory, engaging, and deeply community-based experience. Through its Adapta2+ Expo, it went beyond simply presenting reports, creating an immersive space with interactive themed areas, talks, games, and workshops, attracting over 3.000 people of all ages. This flagship event was preceded and amplified by a comprehensive social mobilization strategy—including song and mural contests, interventions in shopping malls, and a powerful theater tour that educated 10.000 students—which fostered fertile ground for awareness-raising. By combining mass dissemination with an accessible and educational methodology, the program not only delivered accountability but also promoted citizen ownership of knowledge about climate adaptation, making transparency a twoway, inclusive, and transformative process.

The beneficiaries of the Adapta2+ Program are distributed across communities in all seven socioeconomic regions of Costa Rica, with an emphasis on rural areas facing high levels of socioeconomic and climate vulnerability. Work was carried out in communities mostly located in cantons identified as having significant challenges by the Cantonal Human Development Index, reflecting the need to strengthen the resilience of these populations. These communities have been affected by phenomena such as prolonged droughts, intense rainfall, loss of agricultural productivity, and deterioration of coastal ecosystems, which has increased their vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

8. Description of the vulnerable communities and social groups affected by the project, and how they have been involved and empowered

8.1. People-centered approach and differentiated strategies

From its inception, Adapta2+ prioritized a people-centered approach, ensuring that adaptation actions not only addressed environmental criteria but also improved the living conditions of beneficiaries. This involved implementing differentiated strategies based on the vulnerability and characteristics of each social group, with an emphasis on smallscale agricultural producers, indigenous communities, rural women, and artisanal fishers.

8.2. Small-scale agricultural producers

In the agricultural sector, producers have gained access to sustainable technologies and resilient farming practices, such as integrated farm management and soil conservation, which have improved productivity and reduced uncertainty in the face of extreme weather events. Initiatives such as the recovery of native seeds and the establishment of community seed banks have empowered rural women, which in turn has promoted food security and economic autonomy for their families and communities.

8.3. Indigenous peoples and strengthening food sovereignty

The Indigenous communities participating in the program have particularly benefited from family farming projects that combine ancestral knowledge with innovative practices. This has allowed them to reduce their dependence on external inputs and, as in the case of women's organizations, strengthen their food sovereignty.

Section A: Project result and performance

8.4. Community water management and strengthening of ASADAS

In the area of water resources, the program has promoted improvements in the management and financing of community aqueducts managed by ASADAS. This has allowed rural communities to access safer and more futureproof water sources, strengthening their capacity to respond to prolonged droughts and other impacts of climate change.

8.5. Artisanal fishing sector and sustainable livelihoods

The artisanal fishing sector has also received support through conservation strategies and sustainable management of marine resources. This has helped to provide alternative sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

The implementation of these measures contributed to the recovery of marine ecosystems and has improved the economic stability of local fishermen.

8.6. Active participation and community empowerment

Through consultation processes with the various stakeholders, the active participation of the beneficiary people/organizations was promoted, strengthening their sense of belonging to the projects and promoting proactive and community-led initiatives.

8.7. Expansion of local initiatives and multi-stakeholder collaboration

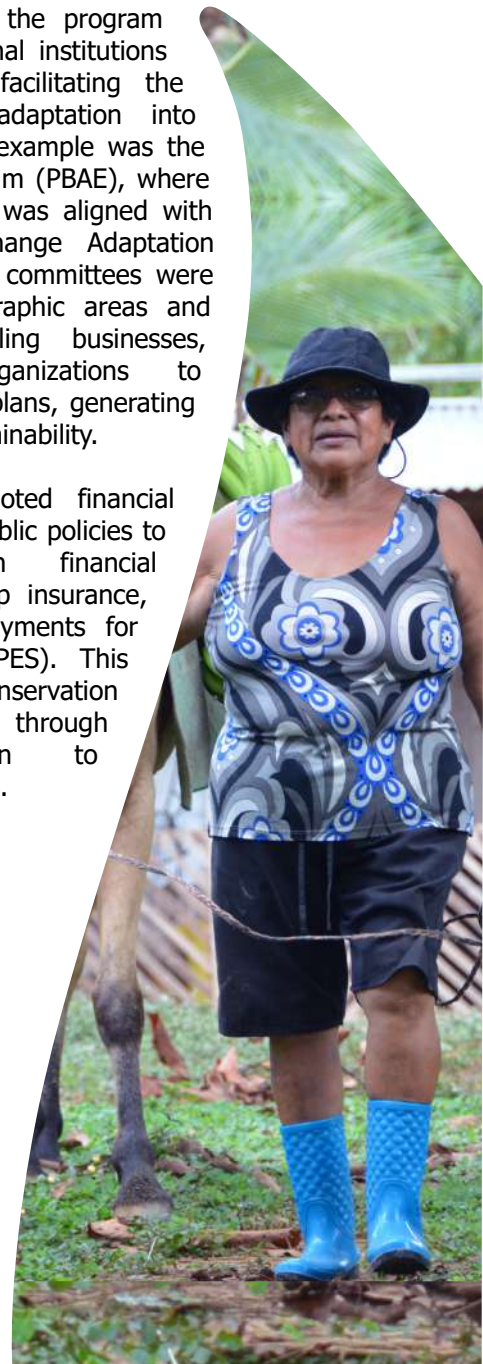
It is important to highlight that many of the projects implemented under Adapta2+ were part of existing regional or local initiatives. In several cases, Adapta2+ funding allowed these efforts to be expanded, incorporating the participation of local, national, and even international partners, which helped to enhance the scope and impact of the interventions. Through these partnerships, Adapta2+ has demonstrated that climate change adaptation goes beyond environmental protection, directly impacting the quality of life of the most vulnerable communities and laying the groundwork for new initiatives that can replicate its successes in the long term.

9. Description of how long-term institutional and technical capacity for effective adaptation has been strengthened

Adapta2+ has contributed to strengthening the institutional and technical capacity for climate change adaptation in Costa Rica, ensuring the sustainability of the actions implemented through institutional processes and public policies.

As mentioned previously, the program worked closely with national institutions and local stakeholders, facilitating the integration of climate adaptation into existing programs. A key example was the Blue Flag Ecological Program (PBAE), where the adaptation parameter was aligned with the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy. Subsequently, local committees were trained in different geographic areas and economic sectors, enabling businesses, communities, and organizations to implement climate action plans, generating a multiplier effect and sustainability.

The program also promoted financial inclusion and supported public policies to create or strengthen financial mechanisms, such as crop insurance, access to credit, and Payments for Environmental Services (PES). This initiative incentivizes the conservation of strategic ecosystems through economic compensation to communities and producers.



Program beneficiary: María Victoria Rojas. Location: Limón, Talamanca.

Section A: Project result and performance

Another key achievement was the strengthening of the water sector, particularly the support provided to ASADAS (Rural Water Supply Associations) in implementing the Water Resource Protection Tariff, officially established in 2019. This tariff allows ASADAS to generate income for the protection of water sources and the implementation of climate resilience measures in vulnerable communities. To facilitate its use, Adapta2+ trained water system operators, simplified procedures, and developed support tools, ensuring the possibility of effective implementation nationwide.

The program has also been a key player in shaping and strengthening national climate policy. Adapta2+ generated technical inputs that informed the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and facilitated its alignment with territorial strategies, promoting resilience in local governments.

At the sectoral level, the program strengthened the implementation of Costa Rica's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), linking its projects to community- and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, environmental health, just transition, and climate finance. It also played a role in advancing the goals of the National Biodiversity Strategy, the National Low-Carbon Livestock Strategy, and expanding Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in livestock and coffee, ensuring that these initiatives incorporate both mitigation and adaptation.

Adapta2+ has also contributed information to the National Climate Change Metrics System (SINAMECC), strengthening the country's capacity to measure progress in adaptation, improve accountability and facilitate decision-making at the national and international levels.

10. An overview of complementarity and/or coherence of with other climate finance sources in the context of this project

The Adapta2+ Program was strategically designed to complement and enhance other sources of climate finance, avoiding duplication and creating synergies. Instead of operating in isolation, the program mobilized over US\$6,5 million in additional funding from beneficiaries, national organizations, and international partners. This collaboration was structured through some 400 partnerships with actors such as GIZ, AECID, UNDP, UNEP, the CRUSA Foundation, the O'Malley Foundation, and Friends of Costa Rica, who provided both funding and technical assistance and capacity building. A concrete example of this coherence is the food security project in Talamanca- Valle de la Estrella, implemented by INDER with joint support from Adapta2+ and AECID, which improved the food self-sufficiency and security of 528 indigenous people and rehabilitated 841,4 hectares. The strategy involved expanding existing initiatives, integrating local and international partners to maximize their impact. This integrated financing model not only optimized resources, but also strengthened institutional capacities and laid a sustainable foundation for climate adaptation in Costa Rica, consolidating Adapta2+ as an effective catalyst for national climate action.



Section A: Project result and performance

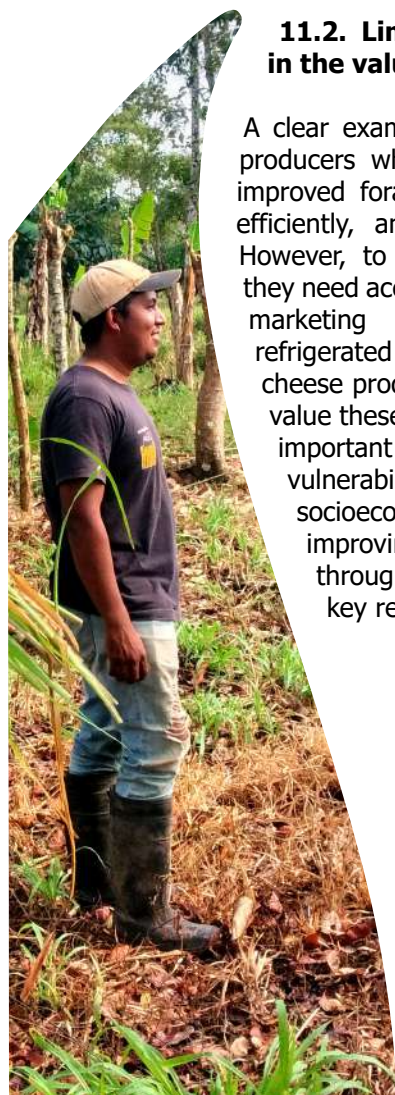
11. Sustainability, scalability and replicability

11.1. Flexible and adaptable approach of the program

The Adapta2+ approach has proven flexible and adaptable to diverse social realities. Its scalability model has a broader vision that transcends intervention on individual farms to encompass the entire food system. The program's experience has shown that improving onfarm production conditions is an important step, but insufficient if the rest of the value chain is not adapted to climate change. This implies that scaling up must address the integration of all adaptation measures, from production to marketing. It must also ensure that the final product is resilient and competitive within a sustainable food system.

11.2. Limitations and opportunities in the value chain

A clear example is the work with livestock producers who, thanks to Adapta2+, have improved forage production, fertilized more efficiently, and increased milk production. However, to capitalize on these advances, they need access to adequate processing and marketing infrastructure, such as refrigerated tanks or optimal conditions for cheese production, as well as markets that value these climate-adapted products. It is important to consider that climate vulnerability is closely linked to socioeconomic vulnerability, and that improving trading conditions throughout the value chain is also a key resilience strategy.



11.3. Climate finance as a scalability axis

Therefore, another key element for scalability is access to climate finance. Although Adapta2+ has made progress with mechanisms such as Climate-Pro-Agriculture and Climate-Pro-Livestock—which, through access to credit, have allowed producers to continue improving their farms and contributing to the program's sustainability—it is necessary to further expand these options to ensure that producers have the resources needed to continue adapting. Without access to adequate financing, many of the improvements achieved will not be replicable on a large scale or sustainable over time.

To achieve this, the program recognizes the need to expand the supply of climate credit, integrate new financial tools, and strengthen financial inclusion for producers, enabling them to invest in adaptation measures before facing a climate crisis. The availability of financing reduces vulnerability, as it allows producers to anticipate extreme weather events and take preventative measures instead of reacting to losses.

11.4. Alignment with public policies and institutional sustainability

The lessons learned reinforce the importance of incorporating the language of adaptation and resilience into national public policies, ensuring continuity beyond the program's duration. Furthermore, operating within existing institutional mandates consolidates the foundation for sustaining actions in the long term. Component 3, dedicated to capacity building, has empowered beneficiaries and strengthened local institutions, fostering ownership and sustainability of the implemented measures.

11.5. Scalability of adaptation measures with multiple benefits

Regarding scalability, the program has shown that adaptation measures are more easily adopted and scaled up when they generate not only climate resilience, but also tangible economic and social benefits for communities.

Section A: Project result and performance

11.6. Replicability based on existing policies and projects

Finally, replicability has been facilitated thanks to the program's contribution to the creation of public policies that promote adaptation to climate change. Many interventions were based on existing local or regional projects; this approach has increased the possibility that successful measures will be replicated in other communities across the country.

11.7. Knowledge production as a replication tool

The initial plan was to develop at least 10 knowledge materials (such as experience notes, case studies, photo essays, videos, and others). However, the final result far exceeded expectations, with the production of more than 781 knowledge materials. This not only demonstrates a significant impact on the generation, systematization, and dissemination of the program's learning, but also provides a solid foundation for scaling and replicating the experiences.

11.8. Expo Adapta2+ as an innovative model of climate communication with potential for expansion

The Adapta2+ Expo established itself as an innovative space for raising awareness and learning about climate change adaptation in Costa Rica, with the participation of over 3.000 people, 2.483 of whom explored the themed areas designed for diverse audiences, from children to senior citizens. The initiative received extensive media coverage from 13 national outlets and the support of 5 digital content creators, who generated over 120.000 views on social media. It also included a theater tour with 30 performances in rural and urban schools, reaching over 10.000 students, and art competitions that received 48 mural proposals and 28 song proposals, strengthening community engagement with the topic.

Beyond its immediate impact, Expo Adapta2+ demonstrated a high potential for scalability and replicability as a model for participatory climate communication. The combination of cultural, educational, and digital experiences generated learning and knowledge materials that can be adapted to different territories and audiences. Its multimodal nature makes it a sustainable climate education strategy with the capacity to expand nationally and regionally, contributing to strengthening resilience and collective action in the face of climate change.

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Program beneficiaries: Carmen Mairena and Óscar Soles. Location: Limón, Pococí.

Section B: Project expenditure



Section B: Project expenditure

1. Project budget

Component	Product	Presupuesto
Component 1: Agricultural sector: Increase the capacity to adapt to climate change in the agricultural sector (includes agriculture and livestock).	1.1 A variety of technical options and methods resilient to the effects of Climate Change, developed, validated and implemented in the agricultural sector according to the area.	\$2.300.000,00
	1.2 Technical financial support promoted for the adoption of technical options generated in local communities.	\$700.000,00
Component 2: Coastal areas sector - water resources: Improving water resource management to increase the resilience of coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change.	2.1 Development and implementation of water safety plans.	\$353.881,22
	2.2 Efficient comprehensive management and effective use of the resource.	\$2.210.425,34
	2.3 Establishment of an integrated management system in coastal areas to strengthen vulnerable coastal communities	\$884.703,44
Component 3: Capacities: Improve the capacity of communities, producers, institutions and other stakeholders with regard to adaptation to climate change.	3.1 Strengthening community preparedness through the development and consolidation of early warning protocols and systems.	\$544.000,00
	3.2 Communities, farmers, institutions and stakeholders are aware of and informed about the risks related to climate change and trained regarding the corresponding adaptation measures.	\$816.000,00
	3.3 Strengthening institutional capacities for the systematic monitoring of climate change.	\$540.000,00
	EE Fee	\$867.580,00
	EIN Fee	\$753.410,00
	Total	\$9.970.000,00

Section B: Project expenditure

2. Actual expenditures

Fundecooperation Foundation for Sustainable Development
Adapta2+ Program
Audited Budget Execution Statement
As of December 31, 2024
(Expressed in USD)

	Budget	Executed	Remaining	Variation absolute
<u>Component 1: Agricultural Sector</u>				
1.1 Agricultural Adaptation Measures	2.300.000	2.351.244	(51.244)	0,61%
1.2 Insurance and Credit Offer	700.000	702.020	(2.020)	0,02%
	3.000.000	3.053.265	(53.265)	
<u>Component 2: Water Resources and Coasts</u>				
2.1 Basin Management	353.881	338.888	14.993	0,18%
2.2 Efficient Water Resource Management	2.210.425	2.187.710	22.715	0,27%
2.3 Coasts	884.703	756.908	127.795	0,53%
	3.449.010	3.283.506	165.504	
<u>Component 3: Capabilities</u>				
3.1 Risk Reduction and SAM	544.000	554.952	(10.952)	0,13%
3.2 Workshop and Materials	816.000	926.056	(110.056)	0,32%
3.3 Monitoring System	540.000	530.395	9.605	0,12%
	1.900.000	2.011.402	(111.402)	
Total components	8.349.010	8.348.173	837	4,19%
<u>EE</u>	867.580	866.976	604	
<u>N.I.E.</u>	753.410	752.968	442	
Total	9.970.000	9.968.117	1.883	

Section C: Appendices

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Program beneficiary: Mileni Soto. Location: Puntarenas, Miramar.

1. Proven adaptation practices

Within Component 1, a wide variety of adaptation practices were implemented in the agricultural sector. A clear and solid example of this is the project "Sustainable Technological Alternatives to Address the Effects of Climate Change and Increase Adaptive Capacity in Livestock Systems of the Central Pacific Region of Costa Rica," implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). This project launched a set of innovative measures, including:



43

Production systems with improvements in production infrastructure.



15

Farms established approximately 46 hectares of improved pastures.



9

Systems with infrastructure improvements for industrialization and dairy processing.



23

Production systems made investments in **genetic improvement**.



16

Systems supporting dairy production and processing equipment.



47

Production systems with improvements in the implementation of **rational grazing**.



52

Systems with 24.5 Ha implemented **forage bank**.



61

Systems with **tree planting**.



28

Systems with increased or established live fences for 21.3 km.



61

Production systems with various improvements in water management (**resource distribution, watering troughs in pasture, water harvesting**).



12

Production systems with the implementation of more technologically advanced irrigation systems.



10

Slurry fertigation systems.



21

Systems with equipment for forage chopping.



18

Systems with silage implementation exceeding **300 tons/year**.

The extension service was strengthened with equipment such as: **GPS, choppers, weighing scales, 1 Drone, laser meters and silage equipment, in order to benefit other producers and members of 10 regional organizations.**

Section C: Appendices

Next, within component 2, it is important to highlight the innovations in instruments and infrastructure implemented in the ASADAS (Rural Water Supply Associations) through the project "Integrated Water Resource Management in the Abangares River Basin," executed by CIEDES. The improvements in the systems were made possible thanks to:



Installation of **weather stations**.



Installation of 3 **river gauge stations** positioned in the Abangares river basin.



Erosion plots placed in different sectors of the Abangares river basin.



Positioning of piezometers in recording and control wells of the Abangares river basin.



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Section C: Appendices

Furthermore, a key part of the second component focused on developing actions in coastal areas. One project that stood out for its implementation of relevant adaptation measures in these areas was Raising Coral. Through this initiative, the following measures were implemented:

10

Infrastructure in Golfo Dulce (8 trees and 2 rope nurseries) with a capacity of about 1000 corals.

More than
1400

Coral fragments propagated in the nurseries of Golfo Dulce and Papagayo.

3

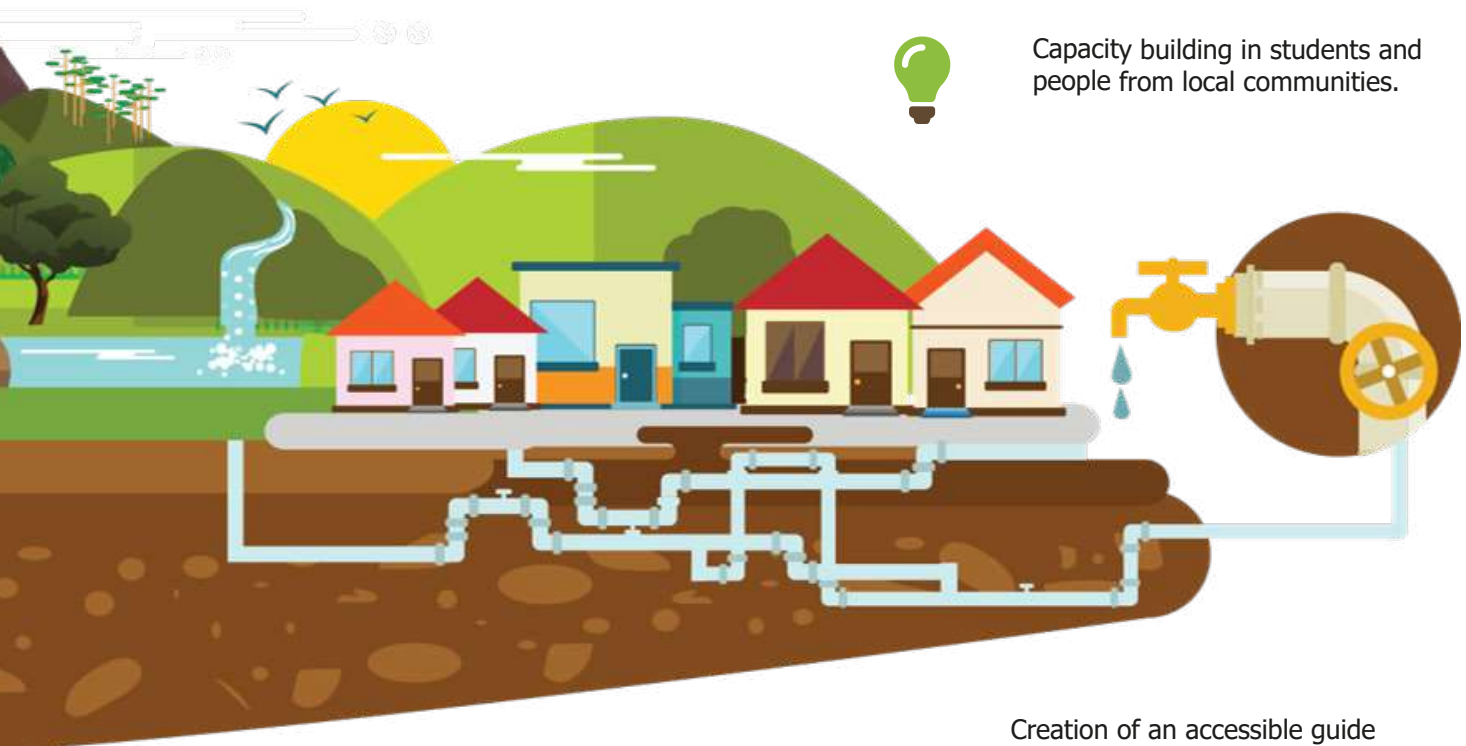
Structures in Papagayo (2 trees and 1 rope nursery) with a capacity of about 400 corals.

80%

They were transplanted from the **coral colonies** cultivated in Golfo Dulce.



Capacity building in students and people from local communities.



The use of the book "**The Magic Corals**" had a great impact on children and older adults; in addition, this book was officially included in the curriculum of the Ministry of Public Education.



Creation of an accessible guide called "**Protocol for the Restoration of Reefs and Coral Communities in Costa Rica**" for coral gardeners and people from local communities near the project's area of influence.

2

Skilled and trained coral gardeners, who, after receiving special training, also received talks on coral restoration and ecotourism practices such as adaptation to climate change.

6

Trained coral gardeners and incorporated into the operations of Raising Coral Costa Rica.

Section C: Appendices

Finally, a valuable example of an adaptation measure developed within component 3 was the project “Adapting Property Appraisals and Municipal Building Permits to Climate Change,” implemented by ICICOR. This initiative benefited 26 municipalities across the country through its main achievement:



Construction and design of the **Climate Change Risk and Threat Warning System (SARACC)**, which aims to provide important information related to risks caused by climate change (floods, landslides, faults, slopes, risk of forest fire, volcanic threat, mudflows, areas with danger of ashfall and acid rain, among others) in specific areas, thus benefiting institutions, organizations, communities, producers and other groups.

48



Service Assets Produced: Municipal officials, REDCOM and ICICOR trained in the use of SARACC.

6



Service Assets Produced: SARACC Application/Maintenance Manuals; Normal User, Advanced User, Administrator.



2. Adaptive Management during COVID-19

As noted throughout the report, the arrival of COVID-19 presented a significant challenge and was the main cause of delays in various program activities. The Tu-MoDeLo project was the most affected, due to the temporary halt of its activities following the interruption of tourism in the country; only when the sector began to recover was it possible to resume its implementation.

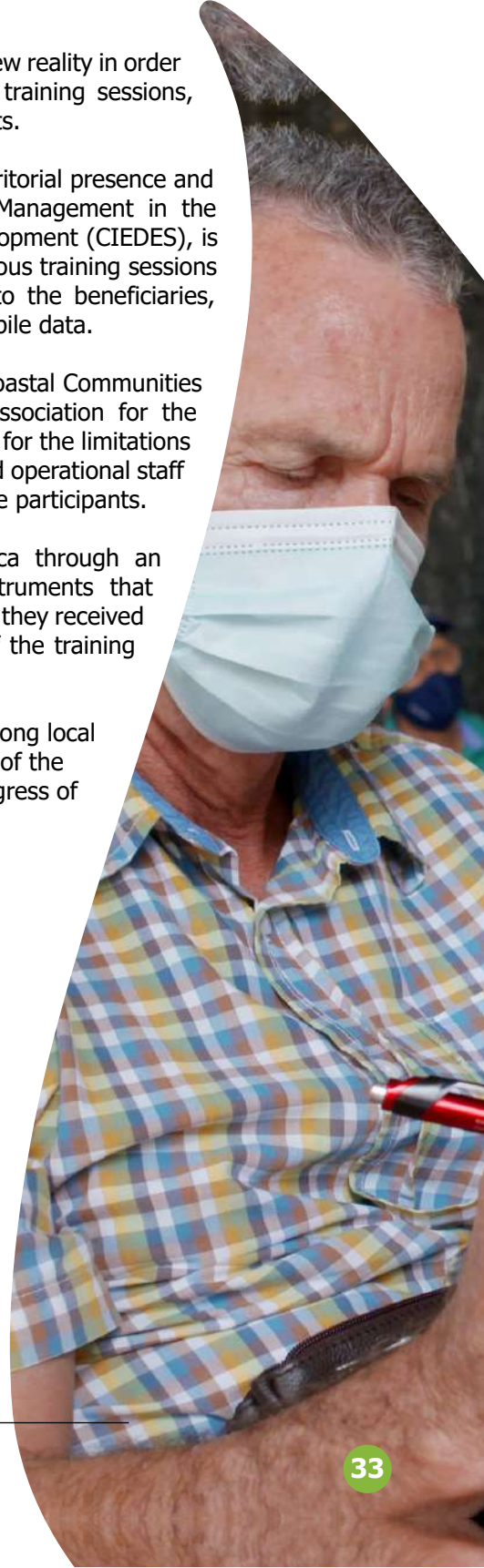
However, not all projects were halted. On the contrary, many managed to adapt to the new reality in order to minimize the impact of health restrictions on their implementation. To this end, training sessions, workshops, and other participatory processes were digitized, migrating to virtual formats.

This transition was not without its challenges, especially for initiatives with a strong territorial presence and in rural areas with limited connectivity. The project "Integrated Water Resource Management in the Abangares River Basin," implemented by the Center for Research on Sustainable Development (CIEDES), is a clear example of adaptive capacity. Faced with the difficulties of conducting synchronous training sessions via Zoom, videos, images, and infographics were created and sent via WhatsApp to the beneficiaries, allowing them to download them when they had internet access or using their own mobile data.

Similarly, the project "Strengthening Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Communities of the Chomes and Manzanillo Districts," implemented by the Central American Association for the Economy, Health, and the Environment (ACEPESA), employed strategies to compensate for the limitations of synchronous connectivity. In this case, training sessions for the Board of Directors and operational staff of the ASADAS (Water Supply Associations) were recorded and subsequently sent to the participants.

Likewise, the INTA project "Capacity Building in the Central Region of Costa Rica through an Agroecological Zoning (ZAE) Tool for Climate Change Adaptation" developed instruments that facilitated the participation of beneficiaries in the context of the pandemic. Furthermore, they received training in the use of platforms such as Zoom and Teams to ensure the continuity of the training process.

Adapting during this period was a complex challenge, particularly for projects with a strong local component. However, the effort made, combined with the flexibility and understanding of the Adaptation Fund, allowed for the continuity of planned activities and the continued progress of initiatives despite adverse conditions.



Section C: Appendices

3. Application of the Principles of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)

Many of the projects in the Adapta2+ program are characterized by a strong local component. As mentioned previously, a people-centered approach was prioritized, ensuring that climate adaptation had a direct impact on vulnerable communities. To effectively implement this approach, the eight principles of Locally Led Adaptation were applied through the following actions:



1. Decentralize decision-making to the lowest appropriate level

A clear example of this principle can be seen in the project “Improving Water Resources and Strengthening the Resilience of Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change in the Aranjuez River Basin,” implemented by ACEPESA. Before developing the Water Safety Plans (WSPs), the staff of the ASADAS (Community Water and Sewerage Associations), which are community members who manage the community aqueducts, along with the technical team, conducted assessments to identify problems and define the priority activities for the WSPs. This allowed the ASADAS to directly make decisions regarding the identification, prioritization, and implementation of climate change adaptation measures. Each ASADA decided which adaptation measures they would prioritize for their community aqueducts.



2. Addressing the structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, displaced persons, indigenous peoples and marginalized ethnic groups.

One of the program's milestones has been the empowerment of historically vulnerable sectors and groups, especially through the incorporation of a gender perspective in climate change adaptation processes.

An example of this can be found in the project executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), “Plan to strengthen the resilience of small agricultural producers in the Huetar Norte Region to hydrometeorological phenomena resulting from climate change.”

In this project, 75 families benefited, including Migdalia Masís, a livestock producer who, thanks to the implementation of measures such as a fertigation system and access to machinery (a lawnmower and a milking machine), managed to increase her cheese production from 10 to 40 kilos. She herself highlights the multiplier effect of her experience: “I am an example for these women who feel they can’t do it.”

In addition to gender inequalities, these populations also face economic inequalities. In this regard, the funding provided by the program has not only enabled the implementation of adaptation measures, but has also fostered productive initiatives led by women, facilitating their access to resources, strengthening their livelihoods, and contributing to the improvement of the social environment in particularly vulnerable areas.

Another relevant case is the project supporting food security for the indigenous population of the Talamanca-Valle de la Estrella territory in the face of climate change through family farming, implemented by the National Institute for Rural Development (INDER). The project focused on promoting food security for the Cabécar and Bribri populations through family farming with a climate-resilient approach, as well as good integrated farm management practices based on the recovery of ancestral knowledge, which were compiled in a manual.



3. To provide patient and predictable financing that is more easily accessible

Output 1.2, “Technical and financial support promoted for the adoption of technical options generated in local communities,” directly addresses this principle. Through the Pro-Climate project, two credit lines—Pro+Climate Livestock and Pro+Climate Agriculture—were created specifically for micro, small, and medium-sized producers who, due to their high social vulnerability, typically do not qualify for credit in the national banking system.

Section C: Appendices

These financial lines enable producers to transform their farms through climate action, technologies, and environmental and social practices that strengthen production chains, improve quality of life, and drive positive impacts in their communities. Thanks to this accessible and stable financial support, the effective implementation of climate change adaptation measures is facilitated.

Another example of patient financing is the flexibility provided by the Adaptation Fund in extending the Adapta2+ Program's timeframe to address challenges along the way, allowing more time to achieve and expand results.



4. Invest in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy

Within the framework of Component 3, capacity building, more than 600 local organizations received training and technical assistance. Strengthening the capacities of territorial institutions ensures that they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, as well as develop context-specific adaptation solutions and initiatives.

Specifically, under Output 3.2, "Communities, farmers, institutions, and stakeholders are aware of and informed about climate change-related risks and trained in corresponding adaptation measures," the capacities of various institutions were strengthened, including multiple ASADAS (Water Supply Associations) in different regions of the country, particularly in the management of the Water Resource Protection Tariff. Furthermore, through the Blue Flag Ecological Program (PBAE), the climate change adaptation parameter was aligned with the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy. In a second phase, a training process was conducted for local committees participating in the program from different geographic areas and sectors of economic activity, with the aim of developing a climate change adaptation plan.



5. Build a solid understanding of climate risk and uncertainty

The principle is based on informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, traditional, Indigenous, generational, and scientific knowledge that fosters resilience across a range of future climate scenarios.

Projects supported by Adapta2+ have generated, disseminated, and exchanged significant knowledge, the key characteristic of which is that it has been put into practice and used as input for decision-making in climate change adaptation. One example is the project supporting adaptation and decision-making in the agricultural sector through the dissemination of meteorological information, implemented by the National Center for High Technology (CENAT). This initiative strengthens the Interactive Platform for Tropical Climate Applications (PIACT) with prediction models and integrated, carefully analyzed information, providing sufficient advance notice and detail. This has allowed the agricultural sector to better prepare for hydrometeorological events.



6. Flexible programming and learning

The program's implementation has concluded that climate change adaptation is a dynamic learning process that evolves according to conditions and needs. As such, many processes can serve as a basis for application to other similar situations, provided a flexible approach prevails to address the inherent uncertainty of adaptation.

Furthermore, a key lesson learned related to this principle is the importance of incorporating the previously unidentified needs of key stakeholders and beneficiaries into the work plan to ensure its success. Flexibility and adaptability are crucial at every level in this regard.

Section C: Appendices



7. Guarantee transparency and accountability

The monitoring and evaluation processes for the projects—through technical, financial, and administrative reports, audits, and other tools—have strengthened the program's transparency. However, Adapta2+ developed a particularly creative and community-focused way to report on its results. The Adapta2+ Expo was a free, two-day fair (November 24 and 25, 2023) that showcased the program's achievements and promoted climate change adaptation through technical talks, six thematic areas, games, and interactive workshops. More than 3,000 people attended the event, with a diverse audience ranging from children to senior citizens. The event was promoted through posters distributed throughout the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM) and shopping malls, advertising on the back of buses, and television segments on major national media outlets (such as Channel 7), ensuring broad reach.

Prior to the Expo, several awareness-raising and community mobilization activities were carried out: a contest to select the program's official song, "Leaving No One Behind"; a mural competition; visits to four shopping malls with games, workshops, and family activities to promote adaptation actions; and finally, a tour of plays focused on climate change. This tour included 30 performances in schools and colleges in rural areas and the greater Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM), reaching 10,000 students. These actions strengthened accountability through a participatory, inclusive, and educational approach, bringing the program's results closer to the public and reinforcing the community's ownership of the adaptation issue.



8. Collaborative action and investment

One of the program's greatest strengths, and a key foundation for its impact, is its multi-stakeholder partnerships with public and private entities, as well as local organizations. These partnerships have helped shape the program's reach across all regions of the country and across sectors. In total, the program established approximately 400 partnerships of varying types across all its projects, aiming to improve efficiency, promote best practices, and avoid duplication.

One example of a strategic partnership with a significant impact on a specific region was the project "Climate Change Adaptation Measures: A Proposal Based on the Reality of Coastal Communities in Talamanca, Southern Caribbean of Costa Rica," implemented by the Talamanca Caribbean Biological Corridor Association. The project implemented new models of participatory, inclusive, and adaptive governance in the country's most vulnerable canton, both climatically and socially. These models enabled communities, from various institutions, civil society, and economic-productive sectors, to identify critical issues and take action to adapt to climate change, maintaining efforts beyond the project's timeframe.





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