

## Environmental, Social and Gender Assessment of the CSICAP<sup>1</sup> Project in Colombia

March 31st, 2021

### I. SUMMARY GENDER ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

1. *Confirm a gender assessment and action plan exists describing the process used to develop both documents.*

The Gender Assessment carries out a comprehensive gender-sensitive diagnosis of the territories, the population and the productive chains involved in the CSICAP project. It also addresses the institutional, normative and policy framework regarding gender equality. The Gender Assessment was prepared using mixed research methods and triangulation involving secondary information and statistical data (population census, agricultural census, and quality of life, labor market and time use surveys) and primary information. Primary information was collected by asking producers associations to complete institutional capacity analysis forms, holding interviews and group sessions with producer association officials, extension workers, producers and affiliated producers (including people belonging to ethnic groups) and key actors from national and local institutions.

Formulating the Gender Action Plan entailed analyzing and mainstreaming the gender approach in the CSICAP project's components, axes and activities. Based on the results of the Gender Assessment, gender-related risks were identified, and mitigation measures were formulated to prevent CSICAP from exacerbating gender gaps. Furthermore, measures to promote gender equality were designed as part of the project, in an effort to help close these gaps.

2. *Provide a summary of the gender assessment and project-level gender action plan that is aligned with the objectives of GCF's Gender Policy. Provide information on the key findings (who is vulnerable and why) and key recommendations (how to address the vulnerability identified) of the gender assessment.*

The Gender Assessment pointed out that the sexual division of labor largely persists in rural contexts; hence, housework and unpaid care work are carried out by rural women. This considerably limits their participation and permanence in the paid labor market<sup>2</sup> and prevents them from engaging in decision-making in agricultural production units - UPA<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, women farmers and livestock farmers have less access to production factors, such as land, credit and technology, which reduces their production potential in crop chains, and limits local economic development.

In response, the CSICAP project's Gender Action Plan seeks to reduce the barriers faced by women producers participating in the Project and will work jointly with different actors to identify opportunities to support rural women's increased participation in local productive development. In relation to the care

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<sup>1</sup> The initial title of the project was changed from Low-Emission and Climate Resilient Agriculture in Colombia (LECRA) to Climate-smart initiatives for climate change adaptation and sustainability in prioritized agricultural production systems in Colombia (CSICAP). All the references in this document have been changed to CSICAP. If there is any reference to LECRA should be understood as CSICAP.

<sup>2</sup> In the departments where CSICAP will be implemented, while 74.2% of men work, only 37.5% of women do so, and 38% are dedicated to housework.

<sup>3</sup> In CSICAP municipalities, men on average make production-related decisions in 58.4% of the Agricultural Production Units (UPAs), compared to 20.0% of the UPAs where women make decisions, and 15.3% where decisions are made jointly.

economy<sup>4</sup> and women's rights, actions will be developed based on the 3Rs concept: i) Recognition and increased awareness of women's rights among different actors involved in CSICAP (producer association officials, extension workers), ii) Reducing the time that women dedicate to these activities, facilitating access to care services (promoting pilot childcare services, community washing machines, efficient stoves, among others), and iii) Redistributing burdens at home (training to producers and agency promotion, participation and empowerment of women). Furthermore, in an effort to improve access to technology, technical assistance alternatives favoring women will be promoted (flexible hours, comprehensive assistance, "producer to producer" methodology, access to technologies that reduce their workload, but increase productivity, among others).

Furthermore, efforts will be made to foster women's increased participation in the Project by taking advantage of economic opportunities in the productive chains (for example, through women's economic exploitation of species for the silvopastoral and agroforestry models, which can, in turn, improve household food security). Similarly, the institutional capacities of the producer associations will be strengthened to promote gender equality in the context of their mission. This will enable them to have the necessary tools to implement this action plan.

3. Indicate if stakeholder consultations have taken place and describe the key inputs integrated into the action plan, including: how addressing the vulnerability will ensure equal participation and benefits from funds investment; key gender-related results to be expected from the project/programme with targets; implementation arrangements that the AE has put in place to ensure activities are implemented and expected outcomes will be achieved, monitored and evaluated.

Fifty-two interviews and group sessions were carried out with 205 participants (131 men and 74 women), who were asked to provide recommendations for successfully including the gender approach in the project, among other aspects. Participants recommended characterizing women beneficiaries in order to develop actions that respond to their needs. They also mentioned including affirmative measures, sensitizing all actors on gender issues, promoting activities led by women or aimed exclusively at women, promoting women's associativity and participation. These suggestions were considered in the activities proposed in the GAP, several of which include participatory formulation processes (in field workshops) with women, which will help the project have a "bottom-up" approach. Furthermore, several activities will be implemented not only with the direct beneficiaries (women producers), but also with indirect beneficiaries (for example, producers' household members) to promote rural women's participation in the project.

The Project Management Unit will include a Gender Team comprising a senior and a junior professional, who will be responsible for designing GAP guidelines, plans and strategies, providing support and technical advice during implementation, monitoring GAP progress and compliance, and contributing to review and update the plan.

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<sup>4</sup> Article 2 of Law 1413 of 2010 defines the care economy as "unpaid work carried out at home, related to maintaining the home, caring for other people at home or in the community and maintaining remunerated working force." In the case of rural women, the effects of climate change are exacerbated by gender norms and relations at home and on the farm. Women's overburden of unpaid domestic and care work, as well as low participation in decision-making regarding production, low access and control over land and financial and technological resources, and low income and high poverty levels (especially in female heads of household), among other factors, limit women's ability to develop climate variability adaptation strategies. Furthermore, the effects on household food security can be aggravated, because, on the one hand, the responsibility for food supply falls on them, and, on the other hand, climate change can reduce the availability of water, food and resources for self-consumption.

Specific expected results:

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Target
<b>1. Men and women producers have equal access to information on climatic behavior and to recommendations on the different periods associated with the crops' productive cycle.</b>	Percentage of agricultural production units with women's participation in decision-making in production issues, that use information technologies to consult climate forecasts.	24,9%	28,0%
	Percentage of agricultural production units that include women's participation in decision-making in production issues, that introduced changes or improvements in climate monitoring.	1,4%	3,6%
<b>2. Men and women producers have equal access to information to take advantage of and implement technologies and practices that favor sustainable production systems promoting climate variability resilience, efficient water use and low-carbon agricultural development.</b>	Percentage of agricultural production units that include women's participation in decision-making in production issues, that improved their agricultural and livestock good practices through the extension service.	1,0%	1,4%
<b>3. Agricultural innovation processes respond to producers' ethnic, regional, age and gender characteristics, in an effort to guarantee equal participation in the project.</b>	Percentage of agricultural production units that include women's participation in decision-making in production issues.	33.30%	36,9%
	Average time spent by rural women in unpaid care activities.	7:52	7:20
	Employment rate among rural women.	37,5%	38,4%
	Percentage of agricultural production units that include women's participation in decision-making in production issues and received technical assistance.	30.10%	50,4%
	Percentage of women who are members of the boards of directors of the producer associations.	FNC: 0%; Fedepanela: 7%; Fedearroz: 5%; Fedepapa: 5%; Fenalce: 6%; Fedegan: 9%; Asbama: 11%; Asocaña: 0%	30%

## II. SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

1. *Provide the environmental and social risk category assigned to the proposal as a result of screening and the rationale for assigning such category*

According to CAF safeguards and the GCF guidelines, this Project has been classified as Category B, which means it has moderate environmental and social impacts in project intervention areas. The project will specifically intervene in areas where prioritized production chains are already established and seeks to reduce their impact on natural resources through the implementation of good agricultural practices such as reducing water and carbon footprints, and reducing GHG emissions through the implementation of new technologies for that allow adapting to climatic conditions and benefit producers. Upon identifying the environmental and social risks, it was determined that the project's possible impacts are reversible and can be controlled through the proposed mitigation measures, especially those related to including women in the project's activities and benefits, producing new varieties of climate variability resistant plants, and the existing production systems, among others.

2. *Present also the environmental and social assessment and management instruments developed for the proposal.*

An Environmental and Social Assessment was carried out and included in the Environmental and Social Management Framework that was also prepared for CSICAP, in line with the GCF's requirements for a Category B project.

3. *Provide a summary of the main outcomes of these instruments. Present the key environmental and social risks and impacts and the measures on how the project will avoid, minimize and mitigate negative impacts at each stage (e.g. preparation, implementation and operation), in accordance with GCF's ESS standards.*

The CSICAP project will seek to strengthen initiatives to reduce the carbon and water footprints and GHG emissions of the chains analyzed. Genetic improvement activities will seek to increase crop and forage resilience to climate change and improve the productivity of the chains analyzed, by identifying varieties that tolerate water stress and high temperatures and are more resistant to pests and diseases. These initiatives will be carried out in line with existing regulations on the matter, especially considering the restrictions of Law 1930 of 2018 (Comprehensive management of moorlands in Colombia). The CSICAP project will not carry out interventions in delimited moorland ecosystems.

Furthermore, in terms of interventions in areas close to moorland ecosystems, actions to reduce the impact of crops will be prioritized, especially potatoes and livestock activities. This will contribute to the development of sustainable low environmental and social impact productive practices and to agricultural reconversion, while emphasizing reduced use of agrochemicals and efficient water use, among others. The CSICAP Project has a lot to contribute to these aspects and can support the national government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in promoting spaces for participation and discussion with producer associations and producers to address existing challenges in agricultural production in these areas.

Regarding the use of agrochemicals, it is suggested that producer associations review the existing protocols to encourage producers to adopt good practices. This will help reduce risks to the environment and to human health.

The social assessment showed that most of the producers in the chains and territories prioritized by the project are over 60 years old. This imposes challenges, not only in terms of engaging young people to support generational replacement, but also related to promoting change, knowledge acquisition and the adoption of new technologies, and the communication and implementation methods used. Moreover, peasant producers and those belonging to ethnic groups currently implement production and conservation practices that have cultural roots, several of which must be recognized and incorporated into the Project in order to generate trust and at the same time promote ownership and social knowledge construction. Furthermore, it is important to consider that the territories participating in the Project have low digital connectivity and that the changes entail economic risks that can be difficult for small producers to manage. These and other factors jeopardize the beneficiaries' adoption of the knowledge, technology, practices and models that are expected to be disseminated through CSICAP.

Faced with this scenario, the Environmental and Social Management Framework recommends, among other aspects, a more participatory approach that includes the formulation of a strategy to promote ownership of social knowledge. This approach must provide specific responses to the unique characteristics of producers in each production chain and the conditions of the territories, and must recognize and incorporate traditional and local knowledge and practices, using an inclusive and easy-to-understand language.

In summary, the ESMF considers the preparation of the following plans and strategies:

- Risk management plan linked to security issues.
- Strategy for the ownership of social knowledge.
- Communications plan.
- Risk management plan for natural disasters and environmental emergencies.
- Comprehensive solid waste management plan and development and implementation of roadmaps.
- Environmental plans that include matters related to Payments for Environmental Services, restoration, landscape management tools and conservation agreements, among others.
- Updating occupational health and safety plans, measures and protocols related to the use of pesticides and agrochemicals.
- Economic and financial education for small agricultural producers.

Regarding ESMF management, the Project Management Unit will be primarily responsible for the CSICAP ESMF. CIAT, the producer associations, Agrosavia and other entities that carry out project activities will participate in ESMF implementation and compliance. The Unit will have an Environmental, Social and Gender Support Team, which will respond to the guidelines provided by the General Director of the project, who will be the leader. The Project Management Unit, through the Environmental, Social and Gender Team, will provide guidelines and technical advice for ESMF compliance. The Environmental, Social and Gender Team will be in charge of designing ESMF guidelines, plans and strategies, will provide support during implementation, monitor progress and compliance as stipulated in the ESMF, and provide support to review and update the ESMF.

Finally, activity, output and outcome indicators were defined to monitor and follow up on the ESMF (including the GAP). The timeframe for each activity was defined (before, during and after implementation). Parties responsible for complying with and monitoring each activity were identified (MADR, CAF, CIAT, producer associations, extension workers). The methods and reporting periods for monitoring and reporting (annual, monthly, as required) were also defined.

4. *Describe the capacity of the Executing Entities (EEs) to implement the ESMP and ESMF and arrangements for compliance monitoring, supervision and reporting.*

In summary, there are two distinguishable groups of producer associations: The first group has an intermediate capacity (they need to formulate or update the entity's environmental management plans, strengthen its information systems and improve monitoring of affiliates and environmental issues, improve the support it offers to men and women producers, develop protocols to address complaints and claims and try to set stronger links with environmental authorities). This group includes Fedepapa, Fenalce and Fedepanela. The second group comprises producer associations with strong capacities for environmental and social management (they have developed the measures described above but need to review specific aspects). This group includes Asbama, Asocaña, Fedearroz, the National Federation of Coffee Growers and Fedegan. However, it is important to note that producer associations' capacities are not homogeneous. Hence, the ESMF determined that each producer association must develop a plan to strengthen its capacities for environmental, social and gender management, according to their current situation.

5. *Include a description of the project-level grievance redress mechanism, a summary of the extent of multi-stakeholder consultations undertaken for the project, the plan of the Accredited Entity (AE) and EEs to continue to engage the stakeholders throughout project implementation, and the manner and timing of disclosure of the applicable safeguards reports following the requirements of the GCF Information Disclosure Policy and Environmental and Social Policy.*

The following measures are considered for registering and reporting petitions, grievances, claims, suggestions and complaints (PQRSD):

- Online platform: The ESMF includes the design and operation of an online platform for the project, which will include a section to receive PQRSD. Users will be able to submit a PQRSD to be addressed by project staff directly.
- Document management: Each PQRSD will be filed under a specific number. The PQRSD can also be filed directly with field personnel or through calls, physical mail, etc. The ESMF team member in charge of document management will upload it to the system.
- Response and follow-up: The communication will be promptly sent to the competent authority, who will process it and provide a response. Special attention will be paid to communications and PQRSD sent by women and ethnic groups. Periodic reports will be made on the main PQRSDs received.

The PQRSD Resolution Mechanism includes classifying the complaint according to its level of urgency, prioritizing complaints and claims that put the life and health of the most vulnerable population at risk. According to the classification, the competent official/contractor will be immediately contacted and will identify the measures and corrective actions to address the situation. Subsequently, a formal response to the claim will be provided, specifying the actions and the person(s) responsible. The maximum PQRSD response times will be 15 business days. If necessary, working groups will be convened. Each PQRSD will be followed up and formally closed.

Regarding stakeholder participation, 52 interviews and group sessions were carried out. Taking into account that the project is still being structured and that at the time of the consultations, discussions on the formulation of the components and activities were still in progress, a general description of CSICAP was provided during the interviews and then questions were asked to explore the project's main strengths, possible obstacles and opportunities. Participants were also asked to provide



recommendations to share project information and ensure efficient communication between actors, and to successfully include the gender approach and environmental management strategies in the project, among other aspects.

A stakeholder participation plan was prepared to maintain interaction with the different actors during project implementation. This plan includes:

- A kickoff workshop.
- GAP and ESMF strategies that include participatory exercises (strategy for the ownership of social knowledge, work groups and spaces for discussion and collective knowledge construction with producers, participatory work sessions with women) and interaction with stakeholders (Communications Plan, project web platform, biannual socialization events).
- Complementary measures: defining criteria for the selection of beneficiaries, signing agreements specifying beneficiaries' rights and commitments, encouraging beneficiaries' participation in decision-making spaces, managing alliances with strategic actors.

6. *Describe any potential impacts on indigenous peoples and the measures to address these impacts including the development of an Indigenous Peoples Plan and the process for meaningful consultation leading to free, prior and informed consent, pursuant to the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy.*

Due to the type of interventions, direct negative impacts on collective territories of indigenous groups (indigenous reservations and community councils) are not anticipated, since these areas are outside the project's area of intervention, so it was not considered necessary to carry out prior consultation processes. In the event that at any time the activities and places of the project are modified and a consultation is required, this process will be governed by Decree 2613 of 2013 (by which the Inter-institutional Coordination Protocol for prior consultation is adopted), the methodological guide established by Presidential Directives No. 10 of 2013 and No. 8 of 2020, as well as by the guidelines established in Decree 1066 of 2015 (Sole Regulatory Decree of the Administrative Sector of the Interior) and by the Directorate of the Authority National Prior Consultation of the Ministry of the Interior (Decree 2353 of December 26, 2019).

In the project area there may be situations in which there is the presence of self-recognized producers or those recognized by others as descendants of ethnic groups that could be beneficiaries of the project, so during the design and implementation phase we have ensured that incorporate mechanisms and strategies that allow positive impacts to reach all beneficiaries, including producers belonging to these groups, peoples and / or communities, respecting their traditional knowledge, systems and practices, to generate synergy with modern sustainable technologies.

In accordance with the above, in order to enhance positive impacts, a differential ethnic approach was included in the diagnosis and analysis of risks, as well as in the processes of dissemination and relationship with the project, in order to promote equitable development. In the understanding that in rural territories the settlers and rural communities (peasant, ethnic and those who do not recognize themselves as none) share traditional practices. In addition, the PAG consistently considers the inclusion of different vulnerable groups, including according to other factors of social differentiation such as ethnic groups.

To promote a participatory approach to the project, through a process of collecting qualitative primary information, we surveyed union leaders, extension workers, male and female producers, ethnic producers, local institutional actors, and national institutional actors on recommendations for project

implementation. The Stakeholder Participation Plan is based on the participation instances and activities of the project beneficiaries. Among the measures formulated is the definition of a mechanism for the participation of the representatives of the beneficiaries in the decision-making bodies of the project, such as the technical committees. This is to ensure that their needs and suggestions are heard, recognized and incorporated into the project, and that the activities respond in a timely, relevant and efficient manner to the conditions of the producers.

Specifically, the following arrangements are considered pertinent:

- Develop prioritization and targeting criteria to select the project's beneficiary producers in a transparent and equitable manner. The criteria will include aspects related to the ethnic differential approach.
- In regions where this is relevant, it is proposed that a minimum percentage of producers belonging to ethnic communities be included in the project.
- Once the specific areas of intervention are known, where required, permits will be obtained from the corresponding ethnic authorities.
- The project includes the development and implementation of a strategy for the social appropriation of knowledge, which will incorporate actions aimed at promoting the participation of producers belonging to ethnic communities in the production chains. Once the beneficiaries of the project have been defined and selected, in the first year a diagnosis will be made of this population by production chain, based on which strategies specific to the needs and characteristics of the beneficiaries will be formulated. For this a consultancy will be hired to capture the specificities of the chains and territories, through quantitative information and the development of working groups, spaces for discussion and collective construction so that the recommendations generated by the project recognize local knowledge, so that the producers are part of the processes and appropriate the knowledge. In the following years, the strategy would be implemented through the producers' associations/ gremios, extensionists and operators, under the supervision of the Environmental and Social Team.
- The ESMF includes the formulation and implementation of a communications plan that recognizes the particularities of the territories, the needs of the project beneficiaries and the ethnic and gender approach. The purpose of this plan is to guarantee the adequate and timely handling of information, as well as the diversity of channels necessary for its dissemination.
- Include in the project's technical team, especially in the group of extensionists, people belonging to ethnic communities in the project's intervention areas, to build trust and facilitate work with the communities while generating local capacity.
- Incorporate the identification of producers belonging to ethnic communities in the data collection forms and in the producers' associations/ gremios databases.
- Formulate an orientation guide with guidelines to advance in the incorporation of the differential approach in the internal policies and guidelines of the producers' associations/ gremios participating in the project.
- The project will hold a biannual socialization event to present its progress, lessons learned and



challenges. This event will mainly invite stakeholders and other actors considered relevant, seeking to ensure the equal participation of women, ethnic groups, the elderly, and young people, among others.

- The mechanism for resolving petitions, complaints, claims, suggestions and denunciations that will be implemented provides for priority attention to complaints and claims that put the life and health of the most vulnerable population at risk, such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and the ethnic population.

The Project's ESMF contemplates the strengthening of the associations participating in the project to allow for adequate implementation of the mitigation measures established for both social and environmental issues. This strengthening is differentiated according to the strengths identified in the diagnostic process. In general, progress will be made in identifying members belonging to ethnic communities.

The project includes, for each project component, the implementation of a monitoring program for each of the zones in which it will be developed by sex, age and ethnicity of the producer, due to territorial and population differences, in order to reduce the risks related to the limited participation of producers belonging to ethnic groups and/or the exclusion of producers belonging to ethnic groups from the project's activities and benefits.

The ESMF will be socialized in a timely and detailed manner to project stakeholders, including all project participants and beneficiaries. All personnel involved in the project will be trained on the safety, health, environmental, social and gender issues and guidelines addressed during project implementation.