

Benin Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility Programme (LoCAL)

Environmental and Social Action Plan (FP Annex 12)



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Electronic submission: 22.02.2023

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Abbreviations

AE	Accredited Entity
APA	Annual Performance Assessments
ACCAF	Assessing Climate Change Adaptation Framework
CONAFIL	Commission Nationale des Finances Locales
DGEC	Direction Générale de l'Environnement et du Climat
DGTCP	Direction Générale du Trésor et de la Comptabilité Publique
EE	Executing Entities
ESAP	Environmental and Social Action Plan
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy (GCF revised ESP)
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
FNEC	Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat
FP	Funding Proposal
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HT	Human trafficking
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDC	Least Developed Country
LoCAL	Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility
MEAL	Knowledge Management and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
PBCRG	Performance-based Climate Resilience Grants
SAP	Simplified Approval Process
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
TA	Technical assistance
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children
WHO	World Organisation for Health

Executive Summary

The proposal is categorised as Category C under GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Screening. ESS screening was undertaken following GCF Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process (SAP).

The project qualifies to use the SAP guidelines because the proposed actions foresee to generate low to no negative impacts on the environment or society and are small-scale at the individual and community activity level, including capacity building, climate-adaptive agriculture and forestry activities, introduction of best practices in agroforestry, improvements in water availability, energy sources and existing local infrastructures, besides investments in coastal protection.

This Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) has been developed in accordance with FNEC policies, namely: Environmental and Social Evaluation of Projects and Programmes (*Procédures D'évaluation Environnementale et Sociale des Projets ou Programmes Portés par le FNEC, 2017*) and Identification of Mitigation Measures and for Elaboration of Environmental and Social Management Plan (*Procédures D'identification Des Mesures D'atténuation Des Impacts Des Projets Et Programmes Et D'élaboration D'un Plan De Gestion Environnementale Et Sociale, 2017*).

In undertaking the ESS screening, the potential risks and impacts have been considered that include direct and indirect, induced, long-term and cumulative impacts and considered the proposed activities' area of influence, residual risks (if any) and mitigation measures toward these. SEAH provisions have been included in the programme risk screening and in the Environmental and Social Action/Management Plan, to prevent and respond effectively to SEAH in a survivor-centred and gender-responsive way in accordance with the Green Climate Funds (GCF) Revised Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) (B.BM-2021/18). **As a result of the Environmental and Social screening, all activities of the Benin LoCAL programme are confirmed Category C.**

Part A of the GCF ESS Screening is against a set of Category C Exclusion Criteria list describing activities that have specific risk factors that would (i) raise the overall environmental and social risks of the proposed activities and would (ii) require a more detailed assessment. Outcomes of Part A screening are shown below (Table 1) and verify that the exclusion criteria are not triggered by the proposed activities and their associated tasks. The GCF Part B screening, requires that an ESS Risk Categorisation Checklist Screening Tool be applied to the programme's proposed activities (Table 2). The screening tool indicates a low degree of concern and confirms a Category C rating for the Benin LoCAL programme.

The LoCAL programme aims to strengthen the climate resilience of local communities and economies by improving the capacity of communities and local governments to access and use financing for adaptation investments and interventions, and to establish an internationally recognized performance-based climate finance transfer mechanism. The programme envisages the utilisation of both technical assistance (TA) and performance-based grants for financing rural category C infrastructure and interventions.

The Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) (table 4) outlines that LoCAL proposed activities are mainly focused on community training and awareness-raising for the introduction of climate-adapted practices and community-level adaptations to increase water availability and energy efficiency, strengthen local economic activities and enhance overall climate-resilience of ecosystems and populations. Measures to mitigate low residual risks associated with these activities are detailed in the ESAP.

For climate-adapted agroforestry and forestry activities, the main risks identified relate to the introduction of exotic tree species and/or the planting of trees close to, or in environmentally sensitive areas. These risks can be mitigated by complying with national and applicable legislation and following good practices in biodiversity conservation, including planning of activities taking into account protected areas and the use of native tree species. Similarly, for reforestation and afforestation activities in sensible areas as anticipated in the log frame of approved activities, only low-impact and community-led initiatives will be allowed; that do not impose negative impacts on existing habitat, excavations or drainage works. The promotion of alternative and renewable energies is followed by a low risk with the procurement, use and waste of solar panels and equipment, that is mitigated by complying with national and local procurement guidelines and by training sessions with the communities. Activities associated with water and sanitation refer to improvements in existing structures.. For all risks identified, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities are foreseen as mitigation measures and as part of the programme development activities.

In conclusion, LoCAL adheres to the GCF Category C classification and has clear activities to significantly improve the climate-change adaptability and resilience of targeted communities in Benin, by focusing on community or village-level climate-adapted agriculture and forestry activities, water and sanitation actions, renewable and alternative energy promotion, small-scale infrastructure improvements, as well as community-orientated low-impact coastal protection activities.

Introduction

Benin is a Least Developed Country (LDC) in West Africa, and one of the poorest countries in the world with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita ranking 145th out of 175 countries¹. Most of the population (around 12 million people) live in rural areas². Administratively, Benin currently has twelve (12) departments subdivided into 77 Communes. Benin is ranked 149 out of 188 countries in per-capita GHG emissions³ and contributes only 0.03% to global emissions⁴. However, Benin is highly vulnerable to global climate change, ranking 155 out of 181 countries in the ND-GAIN index⁵ (2017) for climate vulnerability.

The country's economy is underpinned by agriculture, which represents 30% of the GDP, provides 80% of export income and supports the livelihood of 70% of the population⁶. As most of the crop farming is rainfed, crop productivity is strongly affected by rain variations in Benin's tropical savanna climate. There are three main climate zones in Benin, namely the: i) Sudanian zone in the north (mean annual rainfall below 1,000 mm and a growing season of 145 days); ii) Sudano-Guinean zone in the centre (mean annual rainfall of 900-1,100mm and growing season of around 200 days); and iii) Guinea zone in the south (mean annual rainfall of 1,200-1,400mm and a growing season of up to 240 days). The northern part of the country has a continental tropical climate with both a dry and a rainy season (unimodal) and the southern part has a subequatorial climate, with two rainy and dry seasons.

The strong dependence on agriculture in Benin, combined with widespread poverty and severe environmental degradation makes the country extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Warming across West Africa is greater than the global average, a trend expected to continue, with the greatest warming anticipated in the Sahel. The region's long coastline is home to densely populated cities and economic hubs and faces threats from rising sea levels, coastal erosion and inundation. Increasing temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are already affecting livelihoods, food security, and economic and governance stability. Transnational climate impacts include threats to food security and water quality and availability, threats to health conditions from poor air quality, disruption of transportation networks, and increased migration⁷.

¹ Gross Domestic Product. World Bank, 2018. Available online [here](#).

² 52% of population living in rural areas. Benin Country profile. World Statistics Pocketbook. United Nations Statistics Division, 2019. Available online [here](#).

³ CO2 emissions per capita (based on 2011 data). Available online [here](#).

⁴ WRI (2017) <http://cait2.wri.org/> (based on 2013 data)

⁵ GAIN index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with readiness to improve resilience. Available online [here](#).

⁶ Gain report (2014), Benin. USDA Foreign Agriculture Service. Available online [here](#).

⁷ Climate Risk Profile: West Africa. Available [here](#).

Programme overview

The overall goal of the proposed programme “Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)” is to strengthen the climate resilience of communities and of the local economies in four vulnerable departments of Benin (Atacora, Alibori, Donga and Mono departments) by improving the capacity of local governments and their communities to access and effectively use climate finance for appropriate adaptation investments and interventions, thereby contributing to the alignment of Benin with Paris Agreement objectives, national sectoral targets, and specific SDG targets. The programme envisages the deployment of both capacity building and technical assistance support as well as climate earmarked, performance-based grants – Performance-based Climate Resilience Grants (PBCRG) - for financing climate resilient rural infrastructure and adaptation interventions in key sectors, especially in climate resilient and diversified livelihood options (ARA 1.0), health, wellbeing and food security (ARA 2.0), infrastructure and built environment (ARA 3.0), ecosystem preservation and restoration (ARA 4.0), reducing risks and pave the way for the systemic integration of climate resilience considerations into ‘business as usual’ local development.

The programme seeks to achieve two main objectives in Benin:

Objective 1 (Component 1): Local climate governance is strengthened and enables the integration of appropriate adaptation responses in local development planning processes.

Objective 2 (Component 2): Access to climate finance at the local level is enhanced and increases the share of adaptation investments in key climate sensitive sectors.

The PBCRG are transferred as pre-financing to communities upon compliance with a set of Minimum Conditions, which assess communities’ overall absorption and grant management capacity in line with LoCAL standards. At the local level, communities will plan and budget for eligible local climate risk-informed investments through participatory and inclusive local processes. Target communities will act as ultimate decision-makers of adaptation investment decisions at the local level, under the overall oversight of the LoCAL Steering committee.

The current programme benefits from best practices and lessons learned acquired since 2011, when LoCAL was for the first time deployed in Cambodia and Bhutan. To date, LoCAL is active in 17 countries across Asia and Africa.

Expected outputs

Component 1: Strengthen local climate governance and enables the integration of appropriate adaptation responses in local development planning processes.

Output 1.1: *Awareness and capacities to respond to climate change adaptation at the local are increased.*

- Deliver tailor-made awareness-raising and capacity building support on local climate governance.
- Set up Local Information Systems for Adaptation (LISA) in each target local government.
- Implement a local climate change adaptation outreach and sensibilization strategy.

Output 1.2: *Climate change adaptation is mainstreamed into local governments' planning and budgeting systems.*

- Strengthen local governments’ participatory and gender-sensitive adaptation planning processes.
- Improve local governments’ execution and management capacities for adaptation investments.
- Train local governments on the PBCRG Facility Standard Operating Procedures.

Component 2: Increase access to climate finance at the local level and increases the share of adaptation investments in key climate sensitive sectors

Output 2.1 *Adaptation interventions (category C) are implemented in line with the PBCRG system.*

- Transfer PBCRG allocations and implement eligible adaptation investments and interventions.

The menu of eligible Investments (FP Annex 2.2) guides local governments and their communities in the selection of appropriate risk-informed investments at the local level and eligible for GCF funding under this programme (Category C). Proposed adaptation interventions include both technical assistance activities and investments via the PBCRG.

Output 2.2: *The PBCRG system is operationalized, consolidated and progressively institutionalized for its scale up*

- Conduct Annual Performance Assessments (APAs) in PBCRG beneficiary local governments.
- Consolidate the operationalisation of the PBCRG Facility.
- Progressively institutionalize and elevate the PBCRG Facility as an internationally recognised standard.

Climate change and sectoral impacts

Agriculture

Climate change is affecting agriculture in Benin by causing: i) marked losses and degradation of topsoil (during intense rainfall events, raindrops strike the bare soil surface and disperse clay particles, which increases run-off and consequently erosion); ii) flooding (which leads to erosion, results in major crop losses, damages agricultural infrastructure, causes waterlogging in fields, and ultimately reduces crop yields); iii) fewer days with precipitation (which shortens the growing period); and iv) the late onset of the rainfall season (which results in field operations, such as seedbed preparation, planting and harvesting being performed at the wrong times, thereby leading to crop failure or reduced yields). Together, these impacts have reduced agricultural productivity nationwide; a decline in productivity of 10% was recorded between 1983 and 2008 and it remains low⁸. This has contributed to approximately 15% of rural households in the country suffering from severe food insecurity⁹. As a result of climate change, yields of corn and cotton could decline significantly, by up to 30% for corn and 20% for cotton¹⁰.

The indicators of rainfall variability observed for at least two decades relate globally to the pronounced delay in the effective start of the rains, the occurrence of long dry spells in the rainy season and the significant reduction in rainy events, in a scenario where these risks persist or increase, agricultural production could be seriously affected. The potential impacts of climate change include, among others: i) a fall in yields of around 21.6% and 28.8% respectively by 2030 and 2050 for the SYN corn variety; ii) a drop in yields of 16.7% in 2030 and 8.9% in 2050 for the EVDI maize variety; iii) a drop in cowpea yields of around 26.7% in 2030 and 26.1% by 2070; iv) by 2030, the groundnut decline of around 2.5%, while by 2050, they indicate more favourable prospects with improved yields about 6.4%;v) a drop in cotton yields of around 0.9% in 2030 and 6.3% in 2050¹¹. Other simulations for the region suggest rice production will likely decline in the Sudanian and Guinean climate zone, due to high crop sensitive to the combination of increased temperature, humidity and rainfall intensity, as well as prevalence of rainfed farming in these areas¹². For tubers and root crops, cassava

⁸ Agricultural productivity measured as Total Factor Productivity (TFP), the ratio between total output (crop and livestock products) and total production inputs (land, labour, capital, and materials). Data from Engel et al. (2017). Benin: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Transformation. Centre for Rural Development (SLE), Berlin.

⁹ World Food Programme (2014). Analyse globale de la vulnérabilité et de la sécurité alimentaire (AGVSA), République du Bénin.

¹⁰ GIZ-Climate Analytics and CePED (2019) Vulnerability Study for agriculture. PAS-PNA Bénin.

¹¹ TNC. Benin (2019)

¹² IPCC, 2014. The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, Cambridge UK and New York, USA - Jalloh et al, 2012. West African Agriculture and Climate Change, IFPRI, Washington DC

production and yields are shown to improve until 2030 and then stagnate. For yams and sweet potatoes, results of studies and climate models vary: some models project an increase, others a decrease of yield¹³. Beyond direct effects on crops, as decrease in voluntary feed intake, animal weight, fertility, and production in dairy farming caused by high temperatures has been widely shown by many researchers, evidence that animal production may also declines by 2.64%, 2.35%, and 2.81%, respectively, for livestock, milk processing, and poultry farming by 2025 has been established for Benin. Hunting and forestry output is also projected to fall by 2.69%, while fishing output is predicted to be cut down by 2.19%¹⁴

Water

Increased temperatures, as well as the shifts in rainfall seasonality and amount, caused by climate change, are compromising the supply of both ground and surface-water resources in Benin. This is caused by increased evaporation as a result of hotter temperatures, as well as decreasing inflows and reduced groundwater recharge as a result of fewer rain days and more extreme precipitation. Soil desiccation is yet another effect of climate change that greatly exacerbates reduced water flow into rivers and streams because rainwater does not percolate into deep soil layers and aquifers¹⁵. The pressure on water resources in Benin is likely to continue to increase beyond 2050 since climate change will lead to shorter rainfall seasons and higher temperatures that further increase the evaporation of surface water and the desiccation of soils. The future climate change impacts for this sector are: i) increased water stress; ii) reduction of river flows; iii) potential increase in usage conflicts; iv) allocation of lakes and water reservoirs; v) decrease in contributions from watercourses and bodies of water; vi) decrease in surface area of water courses and bodies; vii) drop in piezometric levels; viii) decrease in the renewal of water resources following a reduction in precipitation.

Forest ecosystem

Climate change is negatively impacting forest ecosystems in Benin, both directly and indirectly. In terms of direct impacts, longer, hotter droughts and an increased frequency and intensity of wildfires are causing widespread tree mortality¹⁶. Additionally, the recruitment of tree seedlings is being reduced by the shortening of the rainfall season. In terms of indirect impacts, local communities are increasingly using natural resources to compensate for the reduced productivity in their agricultural fields and to address their intensifying poverty. This is resulting in the unsustainable use of forest resources – particularly through excessive fuelwood harvesting, the expansion of agricultural fields, and unsustainable non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesting. As a result, a vicious negative cycle is occurring whereby ecosystems are rapidly degrading, which in turn leads to greater vulnerability of communities to climate change. This cycle is a major factor behind the decline of Benin's forests over the last few decades. Between 1990 and 2015 Benin lost 1.2% of its forests every year¹⁷. Local communities are as a result of this decline experiencing a reduction in the provision of important ecosystem goods and services, including for example reduced water provision, reduced flood buffering and reduced protection against soil erosion. Riverine forests are particularly important for the provision of these ecosystem services, but are also particularly threatened by agricultural expansion.

Economic and Social Infrastructure

Studies have shown that extreme rainfall (>60 mm) and excessive temperatures (>37°C) are key climate variables affecting the urban planning and infrastructure sector. Sea level rise in coastal areas is also a primary concern to Benin as key economic infrastructure on the coast may be badly affected

¹³ Lawin et al. (2012), Kumar Srivastava, A.; Gaisera, T.; Paethb, H.; Ewert, F. (2012)

¹⁴ Femi E. Hounnou et al, 2019

¹⁵ Sharma, A., Wasko, C. and Lettenmaier, D.P., 2018. If Precipitation Extremes Are Increasing, Why Aren't Floods?. *Water Resources Research*, 54(11), pp.8545-8551.

¹⁶ Allen, C.D., Breshears, D.D. and McDowell, N.G. (2015). On underestimation of global vulnerability to tree mortality and forest die-off from hotter drought in the Anthropocene. *Ecosphere*, 6(8), pp.1-55.

¹⁷ DGEFC (2016) Diagnostic approfondi du cadre législatif et réglementaire du secteur forestier et proposition d'actions pour la mise en oeuvre de la REDD+ (Analysis of the legal framework and regulations for the forestry sector and recommendations to implement REDD+).

and as coastal areas host the higher densely populated settlements of the country. Indirect impacts may also include increased pressure on existing infrastructure, e.g., longer and more frequent heatwaves may increase energy needs, changes in precipitation leading to water scarcity or surplus with impacts on water management infrastructure, wildfires affecting settlements, roads or telecom networks.

Key elements of vulnerability of existing infrastructure generally include their obsolescence, their location in high-risk areas (coastal or flood-prone), limited maintenance and upgrading, including of course lack of climate resilience considerations in designs. Road transport remains the main mode (80 and 90% of human and goods transport) and represents the only means of access to most rural communities. In terms of other key social and economic infrastructure, a growing population is both fuelling urbanization and the concentration of populations in areas exposed to natural hazards, growing insalubrity, lack of hygiene and the proliferation of precarious neighbourhoods¹⁸.

Energy

The variation in temperature, rainfall, extreme events (floods, droughts and heat wave), and strong winds are the identified relevant hazards that will likely affect the energy sector in Benin. Increased temperatures and extreme precipitation could negatively impact electrical devices, as for instance the service life of transformers is expected to decrease by around 6 to 9 years. Additionally, the risk of bushfires is expected to increase therefore contributing to the destruction of power line conductors. At the same time, the impact of meteorological effects on energy demand, is also expected to rise by an average of more than 20% nationwide by 2050.

Benin will also experience vulnerability borne from the hydroelectric production of energy on which it currently relies. Imports of electrical energy from Ghana and Togo, coming from hydroelectric sources, could be unstable in future scenarios due to watersheds. Climate change will also challenge the performance of solar photovoltaic systems, which could be reduced under extreme temperatures and could experience a drop in production in areas with high cloud cover, particularly in the coastal zone in the south of the country, where a strong distribution of clouds has been observed. Warming will negatively affect the cooling efficiency of plants, their cultivation and thus the availability of biomass, posing a need to adapt to an efficient and sustainable use of energy sources and promote their diversification.

Coastal areas

The Beninese coastline, with an extension of 125 km, is already confronted with major issues, including coastal erosion, engulfment by the sea of dwellings and important socio-economic facilities, deterioration of marine and coastal ecosystems, an increased pollution of the marine environment, displacement of populations bordering the sea. Erosion and sea level rises will dangerously affect coastal ecosystems, including beaches and mangroves, the latter being a key ecosystem for livelihoods. As salt marshes transgress inland invading low-lying forests, agricultural fields, and suburban areas due to sea level rises, underground and surface water and soil salinity is expected to increase.

Gender equality

Climate change is also exacerbating unequal gender relations and poverty, particularly for natural resource and subsistence agriculture-dependent communities. Gender gaps in terms of wages and participation in formal labour, as well as in terms of land and tenure security, limit the capacities of Beninese women to build climate resilience¹⁹.

¹⁸ INSAE, 2013

¹⁹ Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA, 2016). Gender and Climate Change report. A closer look at existing evidence.

Climate Vulnerabilities

Benin is facing the following vulnerabilities:

- Sea level rise threatens the southern coastal region of Benin where over 50% of the population (over 3 million) reside on the coast and in the city of Cotonou. Rapid urbanization has also exacerbated coastal cities' vulnerability, as they are unprepared to deal with increased flooding due to sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- Over the last 40 years, the coast of Benin has eroded more than 400 meters in certain areas, which has caused severe damage to coastal populations and engulfed and swept away homes and infrastructure. Rapid urbanization has also placed increased risk on the population to coastal erosion through poor development of urban services (e.g. sanitation) and infrastructure.
- Floods are becoming increasingly severe and more destructive in Benin, especially in the coastal region. Recurrent floods in urban areas such as Cotonou, Porto Novo, and Parakou pose significant challenges to inadequate and insufficient water supply, sanitation, and waste collection systems.
- Recurrent droughts will continue to affect Benin. Impacts will be felt within the agricultural and water resources sectors as variability in the seasonal climatic regime and lack of early warning systems will exacerbate these sectors' vulnerabilities, threatening food security and the populations' main livelihood.
- Increasing temperatures and floods will also have an impact on the spread of infectious diseases, like malaria, which accounts for around 40% of all visits to health facilities. More standing water will increase the habitats for vectors and increased temperatures and prolonged dry seasons have the potential to extend the vector's seasonal window, increasing the human population at risk of these diseases²⁰.

²⁰ Think Hazard. Benin. Available online [here](#).

Applicable policies

GCF ESS Requirements

The objectives of the GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy²¹ (ESP) are to:

- Avoid, and where avoidance is impossible, mitigate adverse impacts to people and the environment;
- Avoid, and where avoidance is impossible, mitigate the risk of Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH) to people impacted by GCF-financed activities;
- Enhance equitable access to development benefits; and
- Give due consideration to vulnerable and marginalised populations, groups, and individuals, local communities, , and other marginalised groups of people and individuals that are affected or potentially affected by GCF-financed activities.

The ESP requires that all projects be screened for their environmental and social impacts, that those impacts be identified, and that the proposed project be categorised according to its potential environmental and social impacts. Regardless of which category a project is screened for, all environmental and social risks shall be adequately identified and assessed by the AE in an open and transparent manner with appropriate consultation.

The scope of the environmental and social assessment shall be commensurate with the scope and severity of potential risks. The assessment should assess all potential environmental and social risks and include a proposed management plan.

All projects supported by the GCF shall be designed and implemented to meet the ESP Performance Standards (PS), although it is recognised that depending on the nature and scale of a project, not all PS will be relevant to every project. The PS of the GCF and its objectives are listed below.

PS1	Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify the funding proposals environmental and social risks and impacts b) Adopt mitigation hierarchy: anticipate, avoid; minimize; compensate or offset c) Improve performance through an environmental and social management system d) Engagement with affected communities or other stakeholders throughout the funding proposal cycle. This includes communications and grievance mechanisms
PS2	Labour and Working Conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fair treatment, non-discrimination, equal opportunity b) Good worker–management relationship c) Comply with national employment and labour laws d) Protect workers, in particular those in vulnerable categories e) Promote safety and health

²¹ Green Climate Fund Revised Environmental and Social Policy (2021). Available [here](#).

	f) Avoid the use of forced labour or child labour
PS3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention
	a) Avoid, minimize or reduce project-related pollution
	b) More sustainable use of resources, including energy and water
	c) Reduced project-related greenhouse gas emissions
PS4	Community Health, Safety and Security
	a) To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of the affected community
	b) To safeguard personnel and property in accordance with relevant human rights principles
PS5	Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement
	a) Avoid/minimize adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Avoid/minimize displacement (ii) Provide alternative project designs (iii) Avoid forced eviction
	b) Improve or restore livelihoods and standards of living
	c) Improve living conditions among displaced persons by providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Adequate housing (ii) Security of Tenure
PS6	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources
	a) Protection and conservation of biodiversity
	b) Maintenance of benefits from ecosystem services
	c) Promotion of sustainable management of living natural resources
	d) Integration of conservation needs and development priorities
PS7	Indigenous Peoples

- a) Ensure full respect for local communities
 - i) Human rights, dignity, aspirations
 - ii) Livelihoods
 - iii) Culture, knowledge, practices
- b) Avoid/minimize adverse impacts
- c) Sustainable and culturally appropriate development benefits and opportunities
- d) Free, prior and informed consent in certain circumstances

PS8 Cultural Heritage

- a) Protection and preservation of cultural heritage
- b) Promotion of equitable sharing of cultural heritage benefits

FNEC Policies

The LoCAL programme follows the most updated versions of FNEC policies related to environmental and social safeguards:

- Environmental and Social Evaluation of Projects and Programmes (*Procédures D'évaluation Environnementale et Sociale des Projets ou Programmes Portés par le FNEC*, 2017);
- Identification of Mitigation Measures and for Elaboration of Environmental and Social Management Plan (*Procédures D'identification Des Mesures D'atténuation Des Impacts Des Projets Et Programmes Et D'élaboration D'un Plan De Gestion Environnementale Et Sociale*, 2017);
- Grievance redress mechanism (*Mechanism de Règlement des Grievs*, 2017).
- Gender policy (*Politique genre*, 2016);
- Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-terrorism financing (*Politique de lutte contre le blanchiment de capitaux et le financement du terrorisme & KYC*, 2020); and
- Anti-Corruption policy (*Politique de Prévention et de lutte contre le Fraude*, 2019).

Other applicable policies

The LoCAL programme will comply with all ESS applicable policies at the national and local level, and to any international and regional conventions, treaties and agreements Benin has ratified:

- Benin Constitution of 1990
- Framework Law on the Environment, decree n. 2022-390 of 13 July 2022.
- UN Conventions on Environment: Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; Framework Convention on Climate Change; Paris Agreement; Convention on Biological Diversity, among others.²²
- International Labor Organization Conventions: n. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour; n. 29 on Forced Labour; n. 111 on Discrimination, among others as well as their protocols.²³

Conformity with the aforementioned engagements and others applicable will be highlighted as needed during programme implementation.

Below relevance of the above-mentioned laws and policies for the LoCAL programme

- Benin Constitution of 1990: Environmental protection is at the heart of the Benin constituency with the Article 27 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Benin 1, 1990, recognizing the right to a healthy and sustainable environment and the duty to defend it. The State shall ensure the protection of the environment".
- Framework Law on the Environment defines the foundations of environmental policy and organizes its implementation in application of the provisions of articles 27, 28, 29, 74 and 98 of the Constitution of the Republic of Benin. The framework underscores the need to carry out an environmental assessment of projects and programs implemented in Benin. A key objective set out in article 4 of this law concerns the prevention and anticipation of actions likely to have immediate or future effects on the quality of the environment. The present project contributes to prevent the harmful effects of climate change on the environment.
- Decree n. 2022-390 of 13 July 2022: The organization of environmental and social assessment procedures in the Republic of Benin defines environmental and social assessment procedures in Benin applicable to all development policies and strategies, plans, programs, and projects likely to have positive or negative effects on the environment. According to article 26 of this decree, and consistent with FNEC ESS policy and procedures, the present project falls into category C (subject to environmental and social requirements or environmental and social impact notices). On that basis, the adaptation projects that will be implemented in the communes will accordingly be subject to environmental and social

²² United Nations Treaty Collection. Available [here](#).

²³ International Labour Organization. Ratifications by Benin. Available [here](#).

impact notices. Only low environmental and social impacts will be financed through the programme.

- UN Conventions on Environment: Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification: The objective of the Convention is "to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements. The LoCAL project is an adaptive response to integrated resilience management for communities vulnerable to climate change and facing desertification.
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: established with the objective to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Article 3.2 of the Convention states that the special needs and circumstances of developing countries, which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, shall be taken into account, in a way that does not threaten food production.
- Paris Agreement: Aiming to contribute to the implementation of the UNFCCC, the PA aims to strengthen the global response to climate change, in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction.
- Convention on Biological Diversity: established with the objective to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.
- Law n° 2015-08 on children rights protection in Republic of Benin: aim to protect the rights of children. The principle of non-discrimination underlined in its article 7 states that "Every child has the right to enjoy all the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed by the present law, and in particular, the right to equal treatment with regard to services, goods or benefits, without discrimination based on race, origin, ethnic group, social or national origin, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, birth, disability, 4 family or other status, without distinction of the same kind for his parents or members of his family or his guardian. " As this law is in force in Benin, it is applicable to this project.

Environmental and Social Screening

The ESS Screening (Appendix 1) for the LoCAL programme was performed according to GCF Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process. GCF SAP E&S Screening report is composed of two parts²⁴:

Part A is a screening against a set of exclusion criteria. The exclusion criteria describe the activities that have specific risk factors that would (i) raise the overall environmental and social risks of the proposed activities (for example raising to Category B or A); and (ii) would require more detailed and specific assessments and management plans. The proposed activities will be deemed not eligible for SAP if these will likely generate any of the risk factors.

Part B is a screening checklist organized according to the GCF interim ESS standards. The screening checklist takes into consideration any potential environmental and social risks including requirements based on the specific ESS standards. The screening checklist identifies any other potential environmental and social issues that will still have to be considered and managed. The result of the Part B screening will be the basis of the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) or management plan that may be developed during the Funding Proposal preparation.

None of the activities listed in the exclusion list will be financed by the project.

Part A – Environmental and Social Safeguards Screening Tool

Table 1: LoCAL Programme Exclusion Criteria

GCF Category C Exclusion Criteria	Yes/No	Comment
Will the activities involve associated facilities and require further due diligence of such associated facilities?	No	The adaptation interventions will be a direct investment done by local governments.
Will the activities involve transboundary impacts including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	No	The adaptation interventions are national or local in scope, with no cross-border impact.
Will the activities adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers including women and children?	Yes	The adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) that are aligned with Benin's relevant legislation in terms of protection of health and safety of workers, including vulnerable categories. While no interventions with potential negative impact will be selected and implemented, it is acknowledged that minimal health and safety impacts may arise from certain activities, mainly from construction activities. In such instances, workers

²⁴ GCF Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process (2018). Available online [here](#).

		and all exposed will be equipped with protective gear and equipment, and informed on how to respond and act in the presence of these impacts. FNEC guarantees that no forced labor/child labor is employed in the solar supply chain or any other service delivery chain and respect of workers' rights and decent work conditions are provided for directly into tender procedures. Indeed, Benin has a related regulation (Constitution of Benin, Labor Code, 1998, Decree No. 2011-029 of January 2011, Children's Code (Law No. 2015-08)). It also applies the provisions of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
Will the activities potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants including pesticides and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	No	<p>The adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) that are aligned with Benin's NDC, which excludes polluting activities and prioritizes good practices, particularly with regard to agricultural activities and the protection of natural resources. Negative impacts and effects will be avoided by adhering to national legislation with regard to environmental and social safeguards for the different types of interventions, as stipulated in the menu of investments and the minimum conditions of access.</p> <p>Please note that investment activities will undergo a mandatory ESS screening under relevant AE (FNEC) ESS and ESAP procedures for all adaptation Interventions before final selection for funding from PBCRGs.</p>
Will the activities involve the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and river bank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	No	The adaptation interventions may include rehabilitation and construction of new infrastructures; <i>however</i> , these will be small-scale infrastructures at village or community level and not critical ones with no significant negative impact, no additional footprint, in already built-up areas and where waste and wastewater management will not be a problem. Negative impacts and effects will be avoided by adhering to national legislation with regard to

		environmental and social safeguards for the different types of interventions, as stipulated in the menu of eligible investments and the minimum conditions of access.
Will the proposed activities potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	No	Activities that entail the displacement of people are excluded from the scope of the adaptation interventions (please refer to FP Annex 2.2 for the menu of eligible investments).
Will the activities be located in or in the vicinity of protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?	No	Interventions in protected areas, and in their vicinities, will be avoided. The communes will follow a participatory local planning cycle to identify and prioritize adaptation investments, to be voted and approved by the councils. <u>The AE ensures compliance with the Menu and the ESS for risk categorization. If the sub-projects issued by the communes are not compliant with the Menu and the ESS for risk categorisation, they won't be financed via the PBCRG.</u>
Will the activities affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	No	Ethnic minorities present in the affected areas will be consulted during the planning process and included in decision-making processes. No interventions with potential negative impact will be selected and implemented.
Will the activities be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?	No	Adaptation activities will not be implemented in areas that are considered to have archaeological, historical or any similar feature considered as critical cultural heritage. <i>In case of chance find these will be managed according to national law and the GCF will be notified as described in the Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process - Operational Changes, 2018. A chance find procedure is described in this ESAP.</i>

Part B – Risk Categorisation Checklist

Table 2: Environmental and Social Screening

Risks and Impacts	Yes/No	Comment
Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		
Has the E&S risk category of the project been provided in the concept note?	Yes	N.A.
Has the rationale for the categorization of the project been provided in the relevant sections of the concept note?	Yes	N.A.
Are there any additional environmental, health and safety requirements under the national laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and agreements?	Yes	All the financed adaptation interventions will be implemented in compliance with the requirements of the relevant national laws and environmental and social risk treaties through the menu of eligible investments and the minimum conditions of access to the PBCRGs.
Are the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	Yes	<p>The identification of potential risks and impacts considers feedback from LoCAL Phase I experiences in the country. For example: as investments were relatively small in nature at the beginning of LoCAL Benin implementation, feasibility studies as well as environmental and social impact studies were not systematically conducted in advance by communes, thus posing difficulties for the timely disbursement and use of PBCRGs and thorough consideration of ESS impact. After deliberation within LoCAL technical committee, Ministry of Living Environment issued a note requiring communes to conduct said studies in advance, in the year prior to implementation of new investments. This has now become a required and systematically applied practice. Furthermore, every year, the performance of communes and their capacity to fulfil a determined set of minimum conditions are evaluated through Annual Performance Assessments. Performance Measures (PM) notably allow to detect and track communes' record in terms of ESS. According to the 2023 Annual Performance Assessment, details on environmental and social impact are currently being processed and not yet available.</p> <p>The Framework Law on the Environment and the decree n°. 2022-390 of 13 July</p>

		2022 on the organization of environmental and social assessment procedures have been also used.
Labour and Working Conditions		
Will the activities potentially have impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	Yes	Adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments that are aligned with Benin relevant legislation in terms of working conditions and will be implemented following GCF ESS and FNEC relevant policies. A gender equality study is available (please see FP Annex 4). While no intervention with potential negative impact in these areas will be selected and implemented, there is a very low risk that projects for instance in the construction field may incur into instances of discrimination or child labour. Such risks will always be timely and carefully assessed and in the event of any such risk identified, immediate corrective measures will be taken to ensure that no discrimination, no child labour and no forced labour will take place, in compliance with all the individual organisations and donor's guidelines and protocols on these principles.
Will the activities pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	Yes	The adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments that are aligned with Benin relevant legislation in terms of protection of health and safety of workers, including vulnerable categories. No interventions with potential negative impact will be selected and implemented, however there is a very low risk that work for instance in construction-related projects may cause OHS risks. This will be timely and carefully assessed prior to the start of activities and in the event of any such risk identified, concerned parties will be instructed and equipped to deal with it (e.g. provided safety gear, trained on OHS behavioural practices).
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention		
Will the activities generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	Yes	While the choice of adaptation interventions is based on the nationally defined menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2), which aims to minimize negative impacts, both in the

		construction phase and in the operating phase, there is a low risk that the selected adaptation interventions (particularly in the construction and infrastructure sectors) will generate some emissions, some noise and vibration. In the event where these emissions, noises and vibrations were to occur, they are expected to do so as at a level that remains insignificant given the scale of the investments and will be dealt with in accordance with international standards on best practices of emission, noise and vibration mitigation.
Will the activities utilize significant amount of natural resources including water and energy?	No	The choice of adaptation interventions is based on the nationally define investment menu (please refer to FP Annex 2.2), which aims to minimize negative impacts, both in the construction phase and in the operating phase. Even if the selected adaptation interventions will utilise some natural resources these will be at a level that remains insignificant given the scale of the investments.
Will there be a need to develop detailed measures to reduce pollution and promote sustainable use of resources?	No	The choice of adaptation interventions is based on the nationally define investment menu (please refer to FP Annex 2.2), which aims to minimize negative impacts, both in the construction phase and in the operating phase. Even if the selected adaptation interventions will utilise some natural resources these will be at a level that remains insignificant given the scale of the investments.
Community Health, Safety and Security		
Will the activities potentially generate risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	Yes	Investments will be selected in consultation with local communities, including the most vulnerable, and activities will be defined so as not to have any negative impacts on these communities. However, in order to avoid any potential accident, preventive measures will be taken to inform and equip all concerned parties of any potential ensuing hazard. For construction and infrastructure-related activities, for instance, adequate public signs (including visuals to accommodate for illiterate users), barricading, emergency aid kits will be deployed on sites to ensure the availability of necessary resources and know-how in

		the event of an accident. The FNEC grievance management mechanism and the project mechanism will also be available for the communities
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	No	<p>Typically, the activities related to the adaptation interventions listed in the menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2), do not require the implementation of emergency plans as they do not present significant construction phases; these activities can, however, contribute to strengthening communities' capacity for prevention and responsiveness in the event of climatic hazards and will therefore be included in local risk management plans if relevant.</p> <p>As all selected adaptation interventions will undergo a ESS before approval and implementation. If the necessity of an emergency and preparedness plan will be identified, then it will be developed according to the relevant national law.</p>
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the project site to the workers and the affected community?	No	The selection of the adaptation interventions from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) will be done in consultation with local communities, including the most vulnerable, which will prevent any risk from a security point of view as well as avoid any potential conflicts.
Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement		
Will the activities likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	No	Adaptation interventions that entail the displacement of people are excluded from the scope of activities (please refer to FP Annex 2.2 for the menu of eligible investments). No activity will be allowed that implies the physical and/or economic displacement of the local population.
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources		
Will the activities potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	No	Adaptation interventions will be selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2); this menu excludes activities with negative effects on the environment and prioritizes good practices, especially with regard to the conservation of local biodiversity. Negative impacts and effects will be

		avoided by adhering to national legislation with regard to environmental and social safeguards for the different types of interventions, as stipulated in the menu of investments and the minimum conditions of access. No invasive nor non-native species will be introduced in the course of reforestation activities or of any other activity.
Will the activities have potential impacts on or be dependent on ecosystem services including production of living natural resources (e.g. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	No	Adaptation interventions will be selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) and prioritize good practices, particularly with regard to agricultural activities and the protection of natural resources. It is not expected that the proposed sub-project will have potential impacts on the ecosystem if not positive .
Indigenous Peoples		
Will the activities potentially have any indirect impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	No	No ethnic minority or indigenous people has been identified in the target geographies. As a rule, all adaptation interventions selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) will be designed and implemented so as not to have any negative direct or indirect impacts on local communities, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups.
Cultural Heritage		
Will the activities restrict access to cultural heritage sites and properties?	No	Activities of the adaptation interventions will be designed so as not to affect any areas of high cultural value, while respecting traditional practices; this will be agreed upon in consultation with the relevant communities.
Will there be a need to prepare a chance-find procedure in case of the discovery of cultural heritage assets?	No	In case of chance-find, the relevant procedure will be applied in accordance with the FNEC ESS and ESAP procedures; and all changes to the project's area will be notified to the GCF as described in the <i>Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process - Operational Changes, 2018</i> . These procedures are described in the ESAP. In the event of such a chance-find, compliance will be

		ensured with any relevant local or national policy or regulation on the preservation of cultural heritage.
Stakeholder Engagement		
Will the activities include a continuing stakeholder engagement process and a grievance redress mechanism and integrated into the management/implementation plans?	Yes	<p>Communities and local governments will be able to appeal to FNEC and the LoCAL Steering Committee in the event of any grievances. A Grievance redress mechanism is detailed in this ESAP. The FP entails further stakeholder consultations as described in Annex 11.</p> <p>"The local authorities who have been consulted included representatives of local vulnerable groups and conveyed their viewpoints on their behalf.</p> <p>Starting from the inception phase of the project, relevant vulnerable groups will be engaged per each specific activity and intervention.</p>

In addition to GCF ESS screening, FNEC has screened LoCAL proposed activities against the following:

Risks and Impacts	Yes/No	Comment
Will the activities be designed, implemented and monitored to ensure they are safe and prevent Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)?	Yes	<p>The small-scale and community-level nature of the activities, the participatory approach to activity design, the Gender Action Plan and the compliance with FNEC gender policy mean that the risks of SEAH are low. While assessed as low, that risk is from the presence of programme staff or consultants spending time in communities and from survivors and/or communities being unable to identify or report instances of SEAH.</p> <p>Capacity building and GRM design has been developed to ensure that there is an understanding of preventing SEAH and to provide a survivor centric SEAH pathway within the GRM.</p>

Confirmation of Category

Table 3: Confirmation of Category

Name and location of the project:		Benin Local Climate Adaptive Facility (LoCAL)			
Brief summary:		Climate change adaptation programme funded by GCF			
Screening carried out by:		Environmental & Social Specialists for FNEC			
Result of screening:					
Category A / High		Category B / Medium		Category C / Low	x
The overall programme design, as well as the list of eligible activities at community level, have been screened using the GCF ESS screening tool. The screening tool indicates a low degree of concern, i.e., category C. There is a risk that some of the eligible activities at community level could lead to minimal negative environmental or social impacts, but these can be avoided as per the measures in the Benin LoCAL ESAP.					

Environmental and Social Action Plan

This section contains the required Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) for the identified suite of activities for the Benin LoCAL programme as well as instructions for ongoing environmental and social screening of community-level interventions as they are selected and developed. The plan considers the environmental and social risks identified during the screening, the risk significance, and measures to manage and address the identified risks.

In addition to this, the section provides some higher-level guidance to the AE and EEs on how to ensure environmental and social safeguards are integrated into any technical advisory activities. This ensures that all contracts, TORs, policies, plans, frameworks, etc. developed under this programme are screened to ensure that the development process and the recommendations follow the principles of the GCF ESP.

Table 4: Environmental and Social Action Plan

Proposed activity	Summary of risks	Mitigation measures	Level of risk (low, medium, high) ²⁵	Responsible entity/ person	Implementation schedule	Expected outcomes	Implementation cost/budget
Climate-adaptive agriculture A1 Adapted agriculture and soil protection	Risks associated with the introduction of chemical fertilisers and other chemical inputs	Activities will be developed following good practices for soil conservation	Low	Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)	Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.	Improved organic content and better soil productivity	No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.
Climate-adaptive agriculture A2 Increasing micro-irrigation capacity	Risks associated with choice of unsuitable equipment and poor maintenance of components	Regularly check the proper functioning of components such as the injection system, the filtration system, the pressure regulator and the pipes	Low	Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)	Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.	Sustainability irrigation system capacity	No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.

²⁵ GCF, 2018, Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process– annex 2/Risk significance. The probability of occurrence is the likelihood for a risk to occur and can be characterized in terms of the degree to which it will happen. The impact or magnitude of risks is the description of how severe the impacts would be if it were to occur (for example, “critical, severe, moderate, minor, and negligible”). A significance value of the risk (for example low, medium, high) can be obtained by combining the probability and impact values. The risk significance indicates the relationship between probability and severity or magnitude of impacts.

<p>Climate-adaptive agriculture A3 Climate change-adapted farming practices</p>	<p>Risks associated with Bad choice of seeds and non-respect of technical itineraries; excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides</p>	<p>Combine necessary technical expertise; Information, education, communication relate to prohibition of invasive species introduction; promotion of integrated pest management and use of organic fertilizers and pesticides.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Maintaining healthy, productive systems under climate change</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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<p>Climate Adaptive Forestry F1 - Sustainable management of natural forests and improved reforestation efforts.</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the introduction of invasive or non-native species of trees and over exploration of resources. <i>No alteration of natural landscape features. No clearance of native vegetation or listed threatened species.</i></p>	<p>Activities will be developed following good practices for biodiversity conservation under the guidance of a biodiversity expert. Communities will receive adequate training on sustainable management of natural forests. Sustainable management of forests will be in accordance with the local and national policies and directives of the relevant forest area management authorities. Community resources will be accessed and handled in close consultation and with the agreement of local stakeholders.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Natural forests and local biodiversity will be protected and maintained. Communities will be well-trained in sustainable management of natural forests.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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Climate Adaptive Forestry F2 - Dissemination of improved practices for the management of degraded lands.	Risk associated with lack of ownership of best practices.	Dissemination of improved practices in different local languages	Low	Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)	Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.	Adoption of best practices by beneficiaries	No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.
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<p>Agroforestry</p> <p>AF1 - Implementation of adapted agroforestry practices, such as the planting of fruit trees</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the introduction of invasive or non-native species of trees and over exploration of resources</p>	<p>These risks will be avoided by following good practices for biodiversity conservation and planning to ensure selection of native fruit tree species and adequate areas for planting.</p> <p>Capacity-building activities for the community on integrating climate change into agriculture, biodiversity and protection of the population.</p> <p>The use of chemical fertilizers will be avoided and Integrated Pest Management will be adopted.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Natural forests and local biodiversity will be protected and ecosystem services will be maintained.</p> <p>Communities are aware of good practices in agroforestry adapted to climate change.</p> <p>Land becomes more profitable and more jobs are generated.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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<p>Agroforestry AF2 – Grazing area management and adaptation based on ecosystem conservation, including the planting of trees for fodder.</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the introduction of invasive or non-native species of trees and over exploration of resources.</p>	<p>These risks will be avoided by following good practices for biodiversity conservation and planning to ensure selection of native tree species and adequate areas for planting.</p> <p>Capacity-building activities for the community on integrating climate change into agriculture, biodiversity and protection of the population.</p> <p>The use of chemical fertilizers will be avoided and Integrated Pest Management will be adopted.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Natural forests and local biodiversity will be protected, and ecosystem services will be maintained.</p> <p>Communities are aware of good practices in agroforestry adapted to climate change.</p> <p>Increased productivity and resilience of the agricultural system.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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<p>Agroforestry AF3 - Forest fire prevention and control measures, such as the installation of firewalls and their maintenance with small livestock (Goats)</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the introduction of invasive or non-native species of trees, disposal of vegetation waste and overgrazing by goats, resulting in the decline of overall soil health.</p> <p><i>The firewalls proposed do not require any infrastructure. The principle is to remove dry and small flammable grasses on the ground to create a buffer zone around trees and forests to be able to stop the fire in case of wildfire.</i></p>	<p>These risks will be avoided by following good practices for biodiversity conservation and planning to ensure selection of native tree species and adequate areas for planting. Vegetation waste will be disposed according to relevant local and national policies and guidance.</p> <p>Capacity-building activities for community on integrating climate change into agriculture, biodiversity and protection of the population.</p> <p>Adoption of rotational grazing and informed site selection of where firewalls will be established, to avoid</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of PMU/FNEC) and biodiversity expert</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Natural forests, soil health and local biodiversity will be protected and ecosystem services will be maintained and become more resilient to fires.</p> <p>Communities are aware of good practices in agroforestry adapted to climate change.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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		areas with high erosion potentials					
Water ES1 – Development of resilient community water points	Risks relates to replace and install new tanks for rainwater harvesting facility for the community, <i>including OHS risks</i>	<p>Ensure the use of personal protective equipment, raise awareness on compliance with the labor code and on hygiene and health protection measures;</p> <p>Ensure the operationalization of a management committee.</p>	Low	Local governments (under PMU/FNEC)	Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.	Communities are aware of good practices of protection of water resources.	No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.

<p>Water ES2 – Maintenance of shallows and water points, through the reforestation of shallows and river-banks</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the introduction of invasive or non-native species of trees and soil erosion.</p> <p><i>Low-impact and community-led riverbanks and shallows reforestation activities with low to no negative impacts on existing habitat.</i></p>	<p>Activities will follow good practices for biodiversity conservation and planning to ensure selection of native tree species and adequate areas for planting.</p> <p>Communities will receive adequate training on protection and restoration of water resources and how to integrate climate change into agriculture, biodiversity and protection of the population.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under PMU/FNEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Water resources and local biodiversity and ecosystem services will be restored and protected.</p> <p>Communities are aware of good practices restoration and protection of water resources.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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<p>Water</p> <p>ES3 – House modifications to optimise water intake</p>	<p>Low risks associated with OHS and potential hazards to all those involved in the installation work and occurrence of discrimination or child labour instances.</p> <p><i>Acquisition and installation of prefabricated water storage with no additional footprint, within an already built-up area far from protected areas or areas with high ecological or archaeological added value.</i></p>	<p>Workers and all exposed will be equipped with protective gear and equipment and informed on how to respond and act in the presence of these impacts.</p> <p>To avoid waterborne diseases, water will be used only for agricultural purposes</p> <p>To prevent any potential incidents with the community and those exposed to installation activities, public signs (including visuals to accommodate for illiterate users), barricading, emergency aid kits will be deployed on sites to ensure the availability of necessary resources and know-how in the event of an accident.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under PMU/FNEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Greater autonomy of water supply and optimised access to water resources.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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		<p>Any residual emissions such as dust, noise or vibration will be dealt with in accordance with international standards and best practices for emissions mitigation. Waste and wastewater generation will be equally treated and/or disposed of in accordance with applicable legislation and best practices.</p> <p>Risks related to human rights violations will always be timely and carefully assessed and in the event of any such risk identified, immediate corrective measures will be taken to ensure that no discrimination, no child labour and no forced labour will</p>					
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		take place, in compliance with relevant legislation and all the individual organisations' and donor's guidelines and protocols on these principles.					
Water ES4 – Active land management to optimize water intake	Low risks associated with low water storage. installation of hoses (non-permanent structure) intended for distribution for agricultural use, <i>including OHS risks</i>	Combine necessary technical expertise: To prevent any potential incidents with the community and those exposed to installation activities, public, barricading, emergency aid kits will be deployed on sites to ensure the availability of necessary resources and know-how in the event of an accident.	Low	Local governments (under PMU/FNEC)	Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.	Greater autonomy of water supply and optimised access to water resources.	No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.

<p>Energy E1 – promotion of efficient use of wood energy and access to alternative energies, such as access to improved solar cooking and processing equipment, access to butane gas, etc.</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the procurement, management, use and waste of solar panels and associated technology including OHS risks</p>	<p>The introduction of new technologies and methodologies will be associated with relevant and accessible training and awareness-raising sessions.</p> <p>Compliance with official procurement guidelines when sourcing solar panels (PVs) and associated technology</p> <p>labor issues (i.e. forced labor, child labor, etc.) in the supply chain will be included in due diligence and avoided through the procurement process</p> <p>Mitigation measures will be ensured throughout the operations of PVs, including close consultations with</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of LoCAL Steering committee/F NEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline</p>	<p>More efficient energy usage in communities and reduction of deforestation.</p> <p>Communities are aware of energy efficiency activities and how to properly manage solar equipments.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget</p>
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		<p>system engineers, timely updates to firefighters and preserving walkways with a certain width.</p> <p>Mitigation measures will also be adopted during the phase out of the PVs, to avoid any hazard to those exposed to them or handling them. At a minimum, protective gear and adequate trainings will be provided.</p> <p>PVs will be disposed of in compliance with local and national regulations, and in close consultation with the closest local collection and recycling/disposal facilities.</p>					
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<p>Energy</p> <p>E2 – promote and develop renewable energies, by developing solar energy catchment area on communal land</p>	<p>Low risks associated with the procurement, management, use and waste of solar panels and associated technology.</p>	<p>The introduction of new technologies and methodologies will be associated with relevant and accessible training and awareness-raising sessions.</p> <p>Compliance with official procurement guidelines when sourcing solar panels (PVs) and associated technology.</p> <p>Labor issues (i.e. forced labor, child labor, etc.) in the supply chain will be included in due diligence and avoided through the procurement process</p> <p>. Mitigation measures will be adopted during the phase out of the PVs, to avoid any hazard to those exposed to them or handling them. At a minimum,</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of LoCAL Steering committee/F NEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>More efficient energy usage in communities and reduction of deforestation.</p> <p>Communities are aware of energy efficiency activities and how to proper manage solar equipment.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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		<p>protective gear and adequate trainings will be provided.</p> <p>PVs will be disposed of in compliance with local and national regulations, and in close consultation with the closest local collection and recycling/disposal facilities.</p>					
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<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>I1 – Rehabilitation of road transport (rural roads) to make them resilient</p>	<p>Low risks associated with OHS and potential hazards to all those exposed to the construction areas, emissions (dust, noise and waste generation) and occurrence of discrimination or child labour instances.</p> <p><i>Rehabilitation of crossings structures, in concrete, already existing rural roads, with no additional footprint, for pedestrians, motorcycles, animals, or for the facilitation of surface water runoff, within an already built-up area far from protected areas or areas with high ecological or archaeological added value, where waste and wastewater will not be an issue.</i></p>	<p>Workers and all exposed will be equipped with protective gear and equipment and informed on how to respond and act in the presence of these impacts.</p> <p>To prevent any potential incidents with the community and those exposed to construction activities, public signs (including visuals to accommodate for illiterate users), barricading, emergency aid kits will be deployed on sites to ensure the availability of necessary resources and know-how in the event of an accident.</p> <p>Any residual emissions such as dust, noise or vibration will be dealt with in accordance with</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of LoCAL Steering committee/F NEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>More resilient community infrastructures that can withstand natural disasters and ensure steady provision of key services to communities.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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		<p>international standards and best practices for emissions mitigation. Waste and wastewater generation will be equally treated and/or disposed of in accordance with applicable legislation and best practices.</p> <p>Risks related to human rights violations will always be timely and carefully assessed and in the event of any such risk identified, immediate corrective measures will be taken to ensure that no discrimination, no child labour and no forced labour will take place, in compliance with relevant legislation and all the individual organisations' and</p>					
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		<p>donor's guidelines and protocols on these principles.</p> <p>Materials (concrete or gravel, if needed) will be sourced from legally authorized sources.</p>						
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<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>I2 –</p> <p>Rehabilitation of public facilities and infrastructure for resilience</p>	<p>Low risks associated with OHS and potential hazards to all those exposed to the construction areas, emissions (dust, noise and waste generation) and occurrence of discrimination or child labour instances.</p> <p><i>Rehabilitation of a resilient food warehouse, storage facilities and similar small-scale infrastructures (including in-situ rehabilitation, upgrading, and maintenance of existing public facilities) within an already built-up area and with no additional footprint where waste and wastewater will not be an issue.</i></p>	<p>Workers and all exposed will be equipped with protective gear and equipment and informed on how to respond and act in the presence of these impacts.</p> <p>To prevent any potential incidents with the community and those exposed to construction activities, public signs (including visuals to accommodate for illiterate users), barricading, emergency aid kits will be deployed on sites to ensure the availability of necessary resources and know-how in the event of an accident.</p> <p>Any residual emissions such as dust, noise or vibration will be dealt with in accordance with</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of LoCAL Steering committee/F NEC)</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>More resilient community infrastructures that can withstand natural disasters and ensure steady provision of key services to communities.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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		<p>international standards and best practices for emissions mitigation. Waste and wastewater generation will be equally treated and/or disposed of in accordance with applicable legislation and best practices.</p> <p>Risks related to human rights violations will always be timely and carefully assessed and in the event of any such risk identified, immediate corrective measures will be taken to ensure that no discrimination, no child labour and no forced labour will take place, in compliance with relevant legislation and all the individual organisations' and</p>					
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		<p>donors' guidelines and protocols on these principles.</p> <p>Materials (concrete or gravel, if needed) will be sourced from legally authorized sources.</p>					
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<p>Coastal protection</p> <p>C1 – Implementation of coastal and riverine protection investments, including cleaning of coastal lakes and lagoons and ecosystem-based adaptation measures</p>	<p>Low risk of soil erosion and ecosystem perturbation.</p>	<p>Low-impact and community-led coastal and riverine protection initiatives which do not require any significant earth-moving or drainage and no negative impacts on existing habitat; low-tech solutions (e.g., sandbags) are suggested to communities.</p> <p>Communities will receive adequate training on coastline and riverine protection methodologies and international best practice.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Local governments (under supervision of FNEC), in consultation with biodiversity expert</p>	<p>Mitigation measures to be integrated into the planning/design of activity – within the programme timeline.</p>	<p>Protection of coastal and riverine areas and restoration of local biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p> <p>Communities are aware of good practices on restoration and protection of coastal and riverine areas.</p>	<p>No additional costs – part of the activity development budget.</p>
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Management of ESS for PBCRG Financed Activities

As mentioned in the ESS of this report, some community-level activities under Component 2 of Benin LoCAL programme will be further defined through community-based participatory decision-making using the PBCRG mechanism during the execution of the programme activities.

To ensure the community is making climate-risk informed decisions for local investments, PBCRG proposed activities will be selected from the suite of activities in the Benin LoCAL log frame (appendix 2) and bound by the list of excluded activities, listed in the ESS section of this report, that are likely to have low environmental and social risks.

Final adaptation interventions selected by the community from the menu of eligible activities (FP Annex 2.2) and proposed to receive technical assistance and investments through PBCRG will also be screened using the GCF ESS Screening methodology described in earlier sections of this report to ensure only category C activities are financed.

Each individual investment will be validated through the Committee of Experts for Environmental and Social Monitoring, and the Gender Approach (CESESAG) set up by FNEC which ensures screening of projects to be financed and gives green light for implementation. Only activities in line with eligibility criterias are definitely selected

Technical Assistance and Plan Development

Policy and Plan Development

Any activities which require the development of policies or plans will follow this ESAP, the Gender Action Plan (GAP), FNEC relevant policies as well as any relevant local and national ESS policy and regulation and international ESS treaty joined by Benin, in order to ensure that all affected parties are engaged in the process of development and that broader impacts on people, gender, environment, etc. are considered.

Gender Mainstreaming and SEAH

The LoCAL programme will target women's participation in decision-making processes and in investments implementation and management. By design, the programme mainstreams inclusiveness (social equity) and gender considerations to ensure climate vulnerabilities are addressed taking into account specificities associated with gender-based inequalities. This is done through gender sensitive climate risk assessments, gender sensitive and participatory planning progress and promotion of gender-responsive investments. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) developed must be followed throughout the programme implementation to ensure compliance with GCF Gender Policy and ESS guidelines.

All programme activities will also be designed, implemented and monitored to ensure they are safe and prevent Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH). A grievance mechanism (GRM) will be available and detailed in the upcoming sections of this ESAP.

Consultants

Consultants may be required for technical, governance and capacity-building activities during the programme implementation. TORs for any consultants will require the consultant to comply with this ESAP, the LoCAL GAP and the GCF Environmental & Social safeguards and gender policies.

For all technical assistance consultants, this ESAP will be included in the TOR and final contract.

Capacity Building and Awareness

Dedicated capacity building support is provided throughout the whole project cycle (appendix 3), either directly through specialized technical assistance (e.g., establishment of local climate information systems) or through the mobilization of relevant national and subnational stakeholders with such a mandate (e.g., CeFAL for climate change adaptation capacity building and planning or through deconcentrated state services). Specific awareness raising activities will target the beneficiary communities to ensure a constructive participation during the different phases of LoCAL deployment

(planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) Gender balance shall be considered during the activities to ensure that women are equally represented.

Annex 2.2 of the FP contains the list of eligible investments and capacity-building activities planned.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of the implementation modalities of the LoCAL mechanism, which are defined according to the particular circumstances of each country. Because climate change adaptation requires effective coordination between actors with differing mandates and interests, integrated national and local consultation work as part of the LoCAL process is a key factor in its success and durability. Institutionalization of the process makes it possible to work directly with local authorities, which have the legitimacy and mobilizing power to interact with local stakeholders.

From the programme proposal stage, local authorities (“communes”) have been closely consulted in order to collect their views, needs and priorities and help inform the programme design accordingly. This pattern is expected to continue throughout the programme implementation, to which inclusive and gender-responsive engagement of other key stakeholders (see following list) will be added. No specific ethnic group or indigenous people have been identified in the programme target geographies. Other stakeholders - e.g. women’s groups, youth, disabled - will be closely engaged with from the programme start and onwards. Their engagement will be conducted in a culturally sensitive manner, accounting for local cultural and social norms, so as to maximise the inclusion and active participation of most vulnerable and traditionally marginalised groups.

The programme thus envisions implementation of specific tools and processes for stakeholder involvement, prioritizing, among other things, feedback from current initiatives (LoCAL projects and initiatives related to local planning). A methodological guide will be written for the communities, emphasizing the tools and modalities for stakeholder involvement, particularly with regard to the involvement of vulnerable groups and women.

The main stakeholders identified are as follows:

- Central government entities
- Local governments
- Representatives of local communities
- Representatives of civil society
- Representatives of women’s associations
- Representatives of people with disabilities
- Youth representatives
- Representatives of vulnerable groups
- Technical and financial partners
- Representatives from the local and regional private sector
- Networks of exchange, sharing and dissemination of knowledge at the national and international levels (including academia and research).

In terms of local stakeholders, during the inception phase, the project will undertake a mapping in each commune to identify relevant representatives from the list of main stakeholders above, who will benefit from specific capacity building activities (e.g., Activity 1.1.1), and can be leveraged for wider awareness raising activities (e.g. Activity 1.1.3).

Meaningful involvement of local communities as relevant will be ensured during the local development and adaptation planning process, when the identification and design of sub-projects will take place to take into account and reflect the needs, concerns and views of each relevant stakeholder. The devolved and local nature of the decision-making process will ensure the meaningful consultation, in a culturally appropriate, gender-responsive and inter-generationally inclusive manner in accordance with the customs, norms, and values of the local communities targeted by the interventions. Local engagements with communities will happen at the following stages of the project deployment:

- (i) the deployment of the LoCAL mechanism,
- (ii) planning of adaptation investments,
- (iii) capacity building and awareness raising,
- iv) implementing, monitoring and evaluation activities.

In the design of each activity as well as during consultation meetings, data (for baseline assessment, indicators and targets) will be designed and collected in a gender-disaggregated manner.

LoCAL Steering committee meetings and stakeholder consultations are frequently being held with central entities and partners.

The full Stakeholder Engagement is presented in its full in Annex 11 of the FP.

ESAP Implementation

Roles and Responsibilities

The National Fund for the Environment and Climate (FNEC) will be the responsible AE. As the direct access entity accredited to the GCF, FNEC has a number of fiduciary responsibilities vis-à-vis GCF, including monitoring and reporting the progress of the programme and related ESS implementation and compliance with GCF ESP and the ESAP.

The Executing Entities are the Government of Benin, acting through DGEC and DGTCP (the later acting on behalf of CONAFIL) and the FNEC itself. In addition to ensure the overall management and coordination of the programme as the AE, FNEC will also act as EE for Activity 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 under Output 2.1, and activities under outputs 1.2 and 2.2. The Government of Benin, through the DGEC is in charge of implementing directly capacity building support at the local level under Component 1, whilst, being responsible of ensuring the transfer and oversight of PBCRG to communes under output 2.1 as peer Activity 2.1.2 through the DGTCP (acting on behalf of CONAFIL.)

This structure ensures valuable north-south and south-south cooperation between the AE and the Executing Entities, which will be a prerequisite for ensuring the knowledge transfer and sustainability of the programme after its financial closure.

Tasks and responsibilities are organized around three functions:

- Control and monitoring of implementation, conducted by FNEC
- Steering and guidance, handled by a LoCAL Steering committee
- Provision of local support, provided by entities at the departmental and communal levels

In line with local governments' mandates and powers in the country, local councils are responsible for the planning, budgeting, and management of local investments, in close consultation with communities' representatives, including CSO, private sector, minority groups, community leaders, etc.

The establishment and monitoring of the programme's activities will be coordinated by the technical teams. This team will be set up to provide management and technical support. It will include a national technical coordinator, an investment officer, and administrative and logistical support. The team will mobilize international and national technical assistance on various missions (e.g. annual performance assessments). Proximity support will be provided by teams composed of decentralized services at the regional, departmental and/or municipal levels (Commune Support Teams).

The PBCRG and overall programme implementation will be overseen by a LoCAL Steering committee, co-chaired by the FNEC and Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère du Cadre de vie et du Développement Durable – MCVDD) through its Climate Change Division (GCF NDA).

The LoCAL Steering committee acts as Programme National Steering Committee and includes key national and subnational stakeholders, such as line Ministers, directorates and agencies, prefects, deconcentrated state services and communes representatives.

Monitoring and reporting

FNEC (as AE) is responsible for monitoring and reporting LoCAL ESS implementation, SEAH monitoring and reporting and compliance with environmental and social provisions of the ESAP. The monitoring will be a continuous process based on GCF and FNEC ESS standards. Reporting will specify the activities' consistency with the ESS standards and the GCF ESP, including, but not limited to: outcomes of additional ESS screenings, status of the ESAP measures and whether they are being implemented effectively, and summary of community consultations and grievances.

By virtue of the law n°2021-14 of 20/12/2021 on decentralization, the ESS functions are fully delegated and integrated in the prerogatives of local governments in Benin. Hence, the M&E

specialist under the guidance and oversight of the CESESAG will work in close partnership with local ESS institution and competence to ensure full compliance with the ESAP.

Chance Find Procedure

A chance find procedure will guide the actions when a previously unknown cultural heritage is encountered²⁶ during the small-scale construction and/or renovation activities associated with the list of approved investments for LoCAL during the programme implementation.

Finds or cultural resources can be single artifacts, artifacts indicating the presence of a buried archaeological site, human remains, fossilized plants or animal remains or tracks, objects or soil features that may indicate the presence of buried archaeological site and other similar cultural resources²⁷.

When discovering the aforementioned finds, the procedure below must be followed:

1. Stop all work activities in the area and vicinities of the find, immediately.
2. Inform a representative of the LoCAL Steering committee.
3. The LoCAL Steering committee will proceed to:
 - a. Delineate the area and ensure it is secured from any potential damage or loss of removable objects.
 - b. Forbid any removal of objects by workers or any other parties.
 - c. Record detailed information on the find(s) or site (exact location, description of findings, etc.) and photograph objects (preferably with a scale e.g. coin, rules, etc) and area.
 - d. Notify the local authorities within 24 hours of the discovery.

Responsible local authorities will oversee the preservation of the area and act accordingly to national legislations, liaising with competent authorities on adequate procedures and actions to follow. Communication on the procedures and actions defined by competent authorities must be made in written and made available to FNEC, PMU and LoCAL Steering committee. Works in the area can only resume after written approval from the competent authority. The FNEC and the PMU are responsible for working in cooperation with local governments and the competent authority ensuring procedures and measures are being properly followed to preserve the findings.

This chance find procedure is developed according to international good practice, including the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (notably ESS8²⁸), and also complies with FNEC policies and Benin requirements. The procedure will be made available, with appropriate training, to all involved stakeholders, including local governments, communities and contractors.

Grievance Redress Mechanism

A grievance redress or resolution mechanism (GRM) is a system available to all stakeholders, and in particular communities and actors affected by the project or programme, that allows them providing feedback and registering concerns. The GRM needs to ensure conflicts will be resolved in a way that meets the needs of both the programme management and the community.

The Benin LoCAL GRM is in line with FNEC policies and the GCF ESP guidelines. Its scope covers:

- Natural resources
- Pollution
- Cultural assets
- Land acquisition

²⁶ World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, 2017. Available [here](#).

²⁷ World Bank Guidance Note 8: Cultural Heritage, 2018. Available [here](#).

²⁸ Ibid.

- Welfare of vulnerable groups
- Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)
- Health and safety of workers
- Other related issues raised in the ESS screening process

The FNEC has established a grievance mechanism whose scope includes all questions, concerns, problems or grievances (real or perceived) arising from the activities it implements. Through this mechanism, an individual, a group or a community can bring to the attention of FNEC any question that it wishes to see treated or resolved. This includes harm from physical, psychological, social or environmental, ethical or prohibited practices.

The goal is to resolve specific grievances without inhibiting the pursuit of project/program objectives, while preserving the environment, climate and community expectations. This mechanism does not preclude legal recourse.

At the project local level, a GRM will be established under the responsibility of the PMU (through FPOs) with supervision of FNEC. Project staff allocated in the local governments after the start of the programme will serve as the focal points to receive complaints and report them to the PMU.

Receiving, accepting, and responding to grievances

This procedure is described in the administrative, accounting and financial management procedures manual of the FNEC.

Once a complaint is received, it is registered and the users' office submits an acknowledgment of receipt for the signature of the Director General. This Department transmits the complaint within a period not exceeding 48 hours to the General Manager who assigns him according to whether it is an environmental and social complaint, or related to violations of the code of ethics or relating to allegations of fraud, corruption, misconduct and other prohibited practices. Indeed, the management of grievances at the FNEC is ensured by several actors which are:

- the Committee of Experts in charge of Environmental, Social Monitoring and the Gender Approach (CESESAG);
- the Ethics Committee;
- the ad hoc audit committee and/or the FNEC Internal Auditor.

For observations of damages, FNEC can, if necessary, be supported by the Environmental Police made up of sworn and territorially competent inspectors

The process below should be followed:

Grievances shall be submitted a) in person to project staff allocated in the local governments (details to be defined once the programme has started); b) by telephone or email to the project staff (details will be made publicly available after the start of the programme); c) by telephone or email directly to FNEC's Environmental and Social Monitoring and Gender Approach Committee (contacts to be made publicly available); d) via the 'contact us' form at FNEC's website. Complainants have the option to remain anonymous or to leave contact information for follow-up.

Grievances received will have its admissibility judged. The complainant will then be clearly and transparently informed within two weeks whether the complaint is admissible or not. Acceptance/rejection of the complaint is based on the scope determined above.

If accepted, an examination process will be started, that includes a) talking directly to the complainant to better understand the grievance; b) identify involved parties and collect stakeholders' views on the issue; c) identify options to solve the grievance and explore settlement options; d) assess the severity of the complaint. After this process, a response will be prepared according to the outcomes. Grievances must be monitored to ensure complaints were solved and grievances recorded.

The assessment outcomes of the complaints and its resolution (including the measures taken) will be recorded, respecting anonymity of the complainant when requested. The grievances database and the independent GCF resolution mechanism will be made available to the different stakeholders in

appropriate language and format. Similarly, the procedures for registering complaints and all related guidance must be made available to all stakeholders involved in appropriate language and format.

In addition to this channel, the GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism and the country's legal redress mechanism will also be made available to complainants.

Grievances on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

For situations involving gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment (SEAH), violence against children (VAC) and human trafficking (HT), GRM will use a '*survivor-centred*' and '*gender responsive*' approach, ensuring the rights and needs of the survivor (or victim) are at the foremost priority of everyone involved in the programme and putting gender considerations and specificities at the heart of any redress process.

Benin adopted Law No. 2011-26 of January 9, 2011 on the prevention and repression of violence against women. It makes it possible to repress violations of women's rights and to fight against discrimination. A new law on special measures for the repression of offenses committed on grounds of sex and the protection of women in the Republic of Benin was adopted on October 20, 2021.

FNEC guarantees that no forced labor/child labor is employed in any service delivery chain of the project. Indeed, Benin has a related regulation (Constitution of Benin, Labor Code, 1998, Decree No. 2011-029 of January 2011, Children's Code (Law No. 2015-08)). It also applies the provisions of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. It undertakes to complete its policy documents if necessary.

Disclosure of information

As part of the requirements of the GCF, this ESAP is to be publicly disclosed by FNEC, who will ensure the ESAP is disclosed in hard copy and online, in a manner that can be easily downloaded with existing network bandwidth and the accessibility that people currently have to the internet.

Communities should be made aware of the disclosure during consultations. Likewise, the DGEC (as the PMU) will ensure that several copies of all prepared safeguard instruments are available locally at the relevant area's Council offices and easily accessible to affected groups and local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The disclosure of information will be released at an appropriate time and in the languages of the stakeholders involved, and it will describe how vulnerable groups will have access to this information as well as the grievance mechanism. The disclosure of information will include:

- The purpose, nature, and scale of the activities, and the intended beneficiaries;
- The duration of proposed activities; and
- A summary of stakeholder consultations and the planned stakeholder engagement process.

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Appendix 1: Part A and B GCF ESS Screening Checklist

Part A: Risk Factors related to the menu of eligible activities of Annex 2.2 (FP).

Risk Factors	YES	NO
Will the activities involve associated facilities and require further due diligence of such associated facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: The adaptation interventions will be a direct investment done by local governments.		
Will the activities involve trans-boundary impacts including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: The adaptation interventions are national or local in scope, with no cross-border impact.		
Will the activities adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers including women and children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: The adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) that are aligned with Benin's relevant legislation in terms of protection of health and safety of workers, including vulnerable categories. While no interventions with potential negative impact will be selected and implemented, it is acknowledged that minimal health and safety impacts may arise from certain activities, mainly from construction activities. In such instances, workers and all exposed will be equipped with protective gear and equipment, and informed on how to respond and act in the presence of these impacts.		
Will the activities potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants including pesticides and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: The adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2.2) that are aligned with Benin's NDC, which excludes polluting activities and prioritizes good practices, particularly with regard to agricultural activities and the protection of natural resources. Negative impacts and effects will be avoided by adhering to national legislation with regard to environmental and social safeguards for the different types of interventions, as stipulated in the menu of investments and the minimum conditions of access. Please note that investment activities will undergo a mandatory ESS screening under relevant AE (FNEC) ESS and ESAP procedures for all Adaptation Interventions before final selection for funding from PBCRGs.		
Will the activities involve the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and riverbank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: The adaptation interventions may include rehabilitation and construction of new infrastructures; however, these will be small-scale infrastructures at village or community level and not critical ones with no significant negative impact, no additional footprint, in already built-up areas and where waste and wastewater management will not be a problem. Negative impacts and effects will be avoided by adhering to national legislation with regard to environmental and social safeguards for the different types of interventions, as stipulated in the menu of eligible investments and the minimum conditions of access.		
Will the proposed activities potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: Activities that entail the displacement of people are excluded from the scope of the adaptation interventions (please refer to Annex 2.2 for the menu of eligible investments).		
Will the activities be located in or in the vicinity of protected areas and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?		
Interventions in protected areas, and in their vicinities, will be avoided. The communes will follow a participatory local planning cycle to identify and prioritize adaptation investments, to be voted and approved by the councils. The AE ensures compliance with the Menu and the ESS for risk categorization. If the sub-projects issued by the communes are not compliant with the Menu and the ESS for risk categorisation, they won't be financed via the PBCRG.		
Will the activities affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: Ethnic minorities present in the affected areas will be consulted during the planning process and included in decision-making processes. No interventions with potential negative impact will be selected and implemented.		
Will the activities be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contain features considered as critical cultural heritage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: Adaptation activities will not be implemented in areas that are considered to have archaeological, historical or any similar feature considered as critical cultural heritage. <i>In case of chance find these will be managed according to national law and the GCF will be notified as described in the Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process - Operational Changes, 2018. A chance find procedure is described in this ESAP.</i>		

Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts

Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	YES	NO	TBD
Has the E&S risk category of the project been provided in the concept note?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has the rationale for the categorization of the project been provided in the relevant sections of the concept note?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any additional environmental, health and safety requirements under the national laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and agreements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: All the financed adaptation interventions will be implemented in compliance with the requirements of the relevant national laws and environmental and social risk treaties through the menu of eligible investments and the minimum conditions of access to the PBCRGs.			
Are the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: The identification of potential risks and impacts takes into account also feedback from LoCAL Phase I experiences in the country.			
Labour and Working Conditions	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially have impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	x		<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			

<p>Adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments that are aligned with Benin relevant legislation in terms of working conditions and will be implemented following GCF ESS and FNEC relevant policies. A gender equality study is available (please see FP Annex 4). While no intervention with potential negative impact in these areas will be selected and implemented, there is a very low risk that projects for instance in the construction field may incur into instances of discrimination or child labour. Such risks will always be timely and carefully assessed and in the event of any such risk identified, immediate corrective measures will be taken to ensure that no discrimination, no child labour and no forced labour will take place, in compliance with relevant legislation and all the individual organisations' and donor's guidelines and protocols on these principles.</p>			
Will the activities pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	X		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer: The adaptation interventions will be selected from a menu of eligible investments that are aligned with Benin relevant legislation in terms of protection of health and safety of workers, including vulnerable categories. No interventions with potential negative impact will be selected and implemented, however there is a very low risk that work for instance in construction-related projects may cause OHS risks. This will be timely and carefully assessed prior to the start of activities and in the event of any such risk identified, concerned parties will be instructed and equipped to deal with it following applicable legislation and guidelines (e.g. provided safety gear, trained on OHS behavioural practices).</p>			
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/> x		<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer: While the choice of adaptation interventions is based on the nationally defined menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2), which aims to minimize negative impacts, both in the construction phase and in the operating phase, there is a low risk that the selected adaptation interventions (particularly in the construction and infrastructure sectors) will generate some emissions, such as noise and vibration. In the event where these emissions, noises and vibrations were to occur, they are expected to be at a level that remains insignificant given the scale of the investments and will be dealt with in accordance with international standards and best practices for emission, noise and vibration mitigation.</p>			
Will the activities utilize significant amount of natural resources including water and energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer: The choice of adaptation interventions is based on the nationally define investment menu (please refer to Annex 2.2 of the FP), which aims to minimize negative impacts, both in the construction phase and in the operating phase. Even if the selected adaptation interventions will utilise some natural resources these will be at a level that remains insignificant given the scale of the investments.</p>			
Will there be a need to develop detailed measures to reduce pollution and promote sustainable use of resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer: The choice of adaptation interventions is based on the nationally define investment menu (please refer to Annex 2.2. of the FP), which aims to minimize negative impacts, both in the construction phase and in the operating phase. Even if the selected adaptation interventions will utilise some natural resources these will be at a level that remains insignificant given the scale of the investments.</p>			
Community Health, Safety, and Security	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially generate risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer: Investments will be selected in consultation with local communities, including the most vulnerable, and activities will be defined so as not to have any negative impacts on these communities. However, in order to avoid any potential accident, preventive measures will be taken to inform and equip all concerned parties of any potential ensuing hazard. For construction and infrastructure-related activities, for instance, adequate</p>			

public signs (including visuals to accommodate for illiterate users), barricading, emergency aid kits will be deployed on sites to ensure the availability of necessary resources and know-how in the event of an accident.			
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer:</p> <p>Typically, the activities related to the adaptation interventions listed in the menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2.2 of the FP), do not require the implementation of contingency plans; these activities can, however, contribute to strengthening communities' capacity for prevention and responsiveness in the event of climatic hazards and will therefore be included in local risk management plans if relevant.</p> <p>As all selected adaptation interventions will undergo a ESS before approval and implementation, if the necessity of an emergency and preparedness plan will be identified, then it will be developed according to the relevant national law.</p>			
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the project site to the workers and affected community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer:</p> <p>The selection of the adaptation interventions from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2.2 of the FP) will be done in consultation with local communities, including the most vulnerable, which will prevent any risk from a security point of view as well as avoid any potential conflicts.</p>			
Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer:</p> <p>Adaptation interventions that entail the displacement of people are excluded from the scope of activities (please refer to Annex 2.2 of the FP for the menu of eligible investments). No activity will be allowed that implies the physical and/or economic displacement of the local population.</p>			
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer:</p> <p>Adaptation interventions will be selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2.2 of the FP); this menu excludes activities with negative effects on the environment and prioritizes good practices, especially with regard to the conservation of local biodiversity. Negative impacts and effects will be avoided by adhering to national legislation with regard to environmental and social safeguards for the different types of interventions, as stipulated in the menu of investments and the minimum conditions of access. No invasive nor non-native species will be introduced in the course of reforestation activities or of any other activity.</p>			
Will the activities have potential impacts on or be dependent on ecosystem services including production of living natural resources (e.g. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer:</p> <p>Adaptation interventions will be selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2.2 of the FP) and prioritize good practices, particularly with regard to agricultural activities and the protection of natural resources. It is not expected that the proposed sub-project will have potential impacts on ecosystem if not positive.</p>			
Indigenous Peoples	YES	NO	TBD
Will the activities potentially have any indirect impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide a justification of your answer:</p> <p>No ethnic minority or indigenous people has been identified in the target geographies. As a rule, all adaptation interventions selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to FP Annex 2.2) will be designed</p>			

and implemented so as not to have any negative direct or indirect impacts on local communities, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups.			
Cultural Heritage	Yes	NO	TBD
Will the activities restrict access to the cultural heritage sites and properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: Activities of the adaptation interventions will be designed so as not to affect any areas of high cultural value, while respecting traditional practices; this will be agreed in consultation with the relevant communities.			
Will there be a need to prepare a chance-find procedure in case of the discovery of cultural heritage assets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: In case of chance-find, the relevant procedure will be applied in accordance with the FNEC ESAP procedures; and all changes to the project's area will be notified to the GCF as described in the Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Screening of Activities Proposed under the Simplified Approval Process - Operational Changes, 2018. These procedures are described in the ESAP. In the event of such a chance-find, compliance will be ensured with any relevant local or national policy or regulation on the preservation of cultural heritage			
Stakeholder engagement and grievance	Yes	NO	TBD
Will the activities include a continuing stakeholder engagement process and a grievance redress mechanism and integrated into the management/implementation plans?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer: Communities and local governments will be able to appeal to FNEC the LoCAL Steering committee in the event of any grievances. A Grievance redress mechanism is detailed in this ESAP. The FP entails further stakeholder consultations as described in Annex 11.			

Appendix 2: LoCAL Proposed Activity List (Log Frame)

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Climate-adaptive agriculture	A1	Aligned	Adapted agriculture and soil protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Permaculture applied in cottage gardens or market gardens with small-scale manual mechanization. . Use of organic fertilisers and other organic inputs for soil fertility management. . Testing of conservation agriculture, anti-erosion practices and use of cover plants on small plots. 	The predominant agricultural system eliminates soil cover because it considers all plants as competitors of the one that is to be grown. Plant cover limits erosion and evaporation, improves organic content and therefore allows for better productivity: 1- allows production on small plots by making use of resources or ecological processes; 2- saves time because less technical work is required, and there is therefore more time available for other tasks.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Investments	Climate-adaptive agriculture	A2	Aligned	Increasing micro-irrigation capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Installation of gravity-fed irrigation systems, at small-scale and small farming levels, including drip irrigation and shallow wells. . Establishment of small-scale irrigated garden perimeters. 	<p>Some of the current crops would simply not be viable with rain-fed only agriculture.</p> <p>Gravity-fed irrigation systems can be designed very simply with low-cost or even recycled materials and for optimizing the use of water.</p>	Adaptation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Climate-adaptive agriculture	A3	Aligned	Climate change-adapted farming practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Growing off-season crops and resistant, short-cycle and less water-intensive seed varieties, . Testing of crop rotation, crop association for pest and invasive species control, intercropping for greater yield, integrated farming (crop-livestock-forestry) on small/communal level plots. 	The advantage is that it increases productivity by using genotypes already adapted to local conditions, often lost in the rise of commercial varieties that enable more productivity under good conditions, but which lack this adaptation/resilience.	Adaptation
Investments	Climate-adaptive forestry	F1	Aligned	Sustainable management of natural forests and improved reforestation efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Rationalize non-timber forest resource exploitation and promote sustainable development of non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains . Promotion of alternative income generating activities for livelihood diversification and decreasing pressure on forest ecosystems . Promotion of state and communal plantations . Secure the boundaries of state/community forest estates . Making forest management committees operational to rationalize resource use 	<p>Benefits include increased forest ecosystem carbon sequestration capacity through the implementation of LULUCF practices: Land use, land-use change and forestry.</p> <p>Sustainable exploitation of forests ecosystem will ensure access to ecosystem good and services which sustain livelihoods. Improved forest management will also decrease the risk of conflicts over rarer resources.</p>	Adaptation + Mitigation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Climate-adaptive forestry	F2	Aligned	Dissemination of improved practices for the management of degraded lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Restoration of degraded areas to provide grazing areas that also offer ecosystem services such as water retention, reduced soil erosion and flood protection. . Restoration of gallery forests and degraded land through tree planting 	The planting of trees for fodder and ecosystem protection followed by their protection and reasonable use. There are numerous benefits to restoring degraded areas and forest galleries. They provide protection against extreme events such as floods. They promote water infiltration, making the soil more fertile. They provide a home for biodiversity that helps control pests.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Investments	Agroforestry	AF1	Aligned	Implementation of adapted agroforestry practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Planting fruit trees following good practices for conservation of local biodiversity and compliance to national legislation 	There are fruit trees that are sufficiently hardy and adapted to the expected climate scenarios. Planting and upkeep of fruit trees makes the land more profitable, creates green jobs and helps maintain ecosystem services.	Adaptation + Mitigation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Agroforestry	AF2	Aligned	Grazing area management and adaptation based on ecosystem conservation	<p>. Planting of trees for fodder and ecosystem protection, following good practices for conservation of local biodiversity and compliance to national legislation</p> <p>. Establishment of the grazing capacity of livestock in an area to avoid overgrazing, physical protection of trees from livestock</p>	<p>Uncontrolled grazing has extremely negative effects on the landscape and depletes it. A specific plot of land can only support a certain amount of livestock before it degrades. The amount of livestock varies depending on the type of land, weather conditions and time of year. Observing this carrying capacity represents the difference between having productive land and degraded land. This capacity changes with the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Creating a mosaic landscape and interspersing fodder trees increases the productivity and resilience of the agricultural system, making it less vulnerable to climate change.</p>	Adaptation + Mitigation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Agroforestry	AF3	Aligned	Forest fire prevention and control measures	Installation of firewalls - following good practices for conservation of local biodiversity and compliance to national legislation - and their maintenance with small livestock (usually goats)	<p>Firewalls are effective mechanisms for limiting the scope of fires. They do, however, need maintaining. This maintenance can be done with goats, which can incorporate large amounts of lignin into their feed, eliminating plants likely to burn ground wood while feeding the livestock.</p> <p>The principle is to remove dry and small flammable grasses on the ground to create a buffer zone around trees and forests to be able to stop the fire in case of surveillance. These practices are carried out on a small scale, with handmade tools by local populations; they do not require cutting trees and therefore present minimal environmental risks.</p>	Adaptation + Mitigation
Investments	Water	ES1	Aligned	Development of resilient community water points	. Development of community water points for the watering of animals (non-human use) < 20 linear or less than 100 m2	Water availability is one of the constraints of climate change, the foreseeable shortage of water will probably mean that the search for aquifer resources and more water points. The creation of community-managed water points benefits the community by avoiding private ownership of a resource.	Adaptation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Water	ES2	Aligned	Maintenance of shallows and water points	Reforestation of riverbanks and shallows to provide shade and reduce wind-related water losses.	Riparian vegetation is often lost at the expense of arable land, thus losing the ecosystem benefits it offers as a provider of shade, and as a refuge for birds that control pests. The tree roots also maintain the soil, limiting erosion and providing a spawning ground for fish, which is another resource that can be exploited.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Investments	Water	ES3	Aligned	House modifications to optimize water intake	Acquisition and installation of prefabricated water storage with no additional footprint at small-scale and village level.	This results in greater autonomy of water supply, thereby reducing uncertainty over water availability and access.	Adaptation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Water	ES4	Aligned	Active land management to optimize water intake	<p>Acquisition and installation of prefabricated modern water storage infrastructures where no activities will be carried out within protected areas or areas with high ecological or archaeological added value and where waste and wastewater will not be an issue.</p> <p>These interventions involve capturing rainwater in the fields by modifying the way in which the soil is used, following contour lines.</p> <p>1-Construction of longitudinal trenches to promote water infiltration on sloping land, 2-Use of stone barriers, 3-Construction of terraces.</p>	<p>Traditional agriculture makes use of all available land and renders it the same everywhere. When this happens, surface runoff speeds up and water is lost, taking some of the soil with it. Changing the way the soil is treated in areas with moderate slopes (or terracing in steeply sloping areas) significantly limits erosion and improves water infiltration into the groundwater layers. By constructing field water traps and prefabricated tanks, water can be stored for times of shortage.</p>	Adaptation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Energy	E1	Aligned	Promotion of the efficient use of wood energy and access to alternative energies as part of or in support of adaptation interventions and/or aims (mitigation co-benefits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting access to electricity in the areas - promoting access to improved stoves, cooking and processing equipment (e.g. solar) - promoting access to butane gas - - densification of agricultural residues and waste into briquettes by using small manual machines - windrow composting 	The continued use of wood is currently one cause of deforestation, with all the problems this entails. It also requires a lot of effort.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Investments	Energy	E2	Aligned	Promote and develop renewable energies as part of or in support of adaptation interventions and/or aims (mitigation co-benefits)	Solar energy catchment area. All interventions need to be small-scale infrastructure and or rural energy, within an already built-up area and with no additional footprint such pico-to-micro-scale renewable energy, retrofit renewable energy systems and energy efficiency and conservation.	By installing solar panels on communal land, the commune can obtain energy for communal infrastructure. The creation of a solar business cluster provides activities and jobs.	Adaptation + Mitigation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Infrastructure	I1	Aligned	Rehabilitation of road transport (rural roads) to make them resilient	Rehabilitation of crossing structures, in concrete, already existing rural roads, with no additional footprint, within an already built-up area far from protected areas or areas with high ecological or archaeological added value, where waste and wastewater will not be an issue. Appropriate mitigation measure to control dust management must always be applied if necessary.	Crossing structures are degraded by climate change, which changes the intensity of rainfall. Their rehabilitation must take into account new data on climate to make them resilient (crossing structures <5m).	Adaptation
Investments	Infrastructure	I2	Aligned	Rehabilitation of resilient public facilities	Rehabilitation of a resilient food warehouse, storage facilities and similar small-scale infrastructures (including in-situ rehabilitation, upgrading, and maintenance of existing public facilities) within an already built-up area and with no additional footprint where waste and wastewater will not be an issue	The main advantage a resilient community facility is its ability to withstand natural disasters and ensure steady provision of key services to the population	Adaptation

Classification of Adaptation interventions	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Ways to Combat CC and adaptation benefits	Co-benefits
Investments	Coastal protection	C1	Aligned	Implementation of coastal and riverine protection investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Protection of coastal and riverine ecosystems (community-level management actions and training, reforestation based on good practices; no negative impacts on habitat, cleaning coastal lakes and lagoons.) . Ecosystem-based adaptation measures, where river basins, aquifers, flood plains and their vegetation are managed to provide water storage and regulate floods. 	Riverine areas must be protected by the risk of fluvial floods and riverbank erosions. Improved protection measures will reduce damages and losses to assets and infrastructure.	Adaptation

Appendix 3: LoCAL Proposed Capacity Building Activity List

Classification of measures	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Co-benefits
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC1	Aligned	Capacity-building on integrating climate change into agriculture, biodiversity and protection of the population	Build the institutional and technical capacities of the government, civil society organizations and communities in local risk and vulnerability assessment and preparation of climate-sensitive development plans and policies: e.g. Deliver climate change training to local authority officials, the "Comité Communal de Protection Civile" [Communal Civil Protection Committee – CCPC], community outreach workers, rural development officers.	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC2	Aligned	Capacity-building on integrating climate change into water resource management policies	- Build the capacities of devolved departments of the "Direction Générale de l'Eau" [General Directorate for Water – DGE] to predict risks and manage hydro-climatic crises. - Deliver training to senior technical officials on the vulnerability of water systems to climate change, and on the methodology for assessing the vulnerability of water resources to climate change.	Adaptation

Classification of measures	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Co-benefits
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC3	Aligned	Promotion and dissemination of local knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminate local knowledge on biological resource management. - Disseminate local knowledge on managing agro-climatic risks and crises. - Promote traditional knowledge on the relationship between climate and biodiversity. - Promote traditional knowledge on biodiversity to strengthen carbon sinks. 	Adaptation + Mitigation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC4	Aligned	Training on project design	Train stakeholders (engineers, farmers, local authorities) to design climate-smart agriculture development projects or climate-adaptive integrated water resource management projects.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC5	Aligned	Training on climate-adaptive agricultural technology	<p>Deliver training on farming practices, seeds and crop varieties, agricultural biotechnology, irrigation, and water-saving techniques, and using crisis early warning systems.</p> <p>Deliver training on post-harvest pest management techniques.</p>	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC6	Aligned	Training and awareness on coastal and riverine protection and restoration	Train community and local authorities on coastal protection and restoration practices (community-level management of mangroves, including cleaning and reforestation, build and reconstruction of small-scale protection infrastructures) and raise awareness on the need to protect coastal and riverine areas.	Adaptation

Classification of measures	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Co-benefits
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Strengthening local expertise and information on climate change	RC7	Aligned	Training and awareness on renewable and alternative energies	Train community and local authorities on the procurement, management, use, and waste of solar panels and associated equipment; and awareness raising on the need to comply with procurement practices and make good use and discard of solar and related materials.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC8	Aligned	Include integrated water management in communal planning	Development of the local integrated water resources management plan.	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC9	Aligned	Manage the security of the civilian population	Development of the contingency plan.	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC10	Aligned	Set up a flood warning and management system	A cascade communication system that warns the population if potentially destructive torrential rains are forecast and could block roads or affect the quality of drinking water. This early warning, coupled with high-quality meteorological information, would allow sufficient time – perhaps two days in advance – to move pregnant women closer to health centres, take measures for malaria, or move affected cattle to less vulnerable areas.	Adaptation

Classification of measures	Areas of Intervention	Cod.	NDC	Action	Practical example	Co-benefits
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC11	Aligned	Set up an information and warning system on the harmful effects of climate change on biodiversity	Set up an information and warning system on the harmful effects of climate change on biodiversity	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC12	Aligned	Organization of forest resources. Regulations	Establishment and regulation of rural timber markets; creation of a commune coal certification system.	Adaptation + Mitigation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC13	Aligned	Set up a monitoring and information system on the impact of climate change on health	Establish an infectious disease surveillance protocol in the commune for early detection.	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Planning capacities and warning systems	RC14	Aligned	Involve the population in infrastructure maintenance	Set up a system whereby citizens can report damaged infrastructure or suggest adaptive improvements to a local authority focal point.	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Coastal protection	RC15	Aligned	Risk detection mechanism	Develop coastline observation and identify areas at risk of erosion (coastal erosion monitoring).	Adaptation
Commune institutional capacity-building measures	Coastal protection	RC16	Aligned	Definition and application of protection rules	Enforce the regulations on sand extraction and use along the coast	Adaptation

Appendix 4: LoCAL Proposed excluded activities list

EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES		
SECTOR	ACTIVITY CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Agriculture	Adapted agriculture and soil protection	· (Clearing, pesticide use, aerial spraying, ground application) > 10 ha
		· Introduction of pesticides not approved by the government; - use of pesticides falling in World Health Organization Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard Classes Ia (extremely hazardous) and Ib (highly hazardous); or Class II (moderately hazardous).
	Increasing micro-irrigation capacity	Irrigation project >100 000 m ²
		Construction of wells: > 30cm in diameter and 1km in length
		Groundwater pumping: >500m ³ /d
Climate-adaptive forestry	Climate change-adapted farming practices	Breeding of poultry, sheep, goats, cattle and pigs
		Forestry: reforestation operation and/or silvicultural treatments >100 ha;
		classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody material, including roads, tracks and camps
		· Introduction of invasive crops or crops not approved by the government
		· Control of pests and invasive species: use of pesticides >10ha ; - use of pesticides falling in World Health Organization Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard Classes Ia

		(extremely hazardous) and Ib (highly hazardous); or Class II (moderately hazardous).
	Sustainable management of natural forests and improved reforestation efforts	Reforestation operation and/or silvicultural treatments >100 ha;
		Classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody material, including roads, tracks and camps
		Any activity that will result in involuntary resettlement or land acquisition (including non-physical displacement and involuntary restrictions on economic activities and land use)
		Reforestation with invasive species including GMOs
		Activities that may result in unsustainable extraction of native tree species
		Clearance of vegetation for conversion to farmlands
Agroforestry	Dissemination of improved practices for the management of degraded lands	Forestry: reforestation operation and/or silvicultural treatments >100 ha;
		classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody material, including roads, tracks and camps
	Implementation of adapted agroforestry practices	Forestry: reforestation operation and/or silvicultural treatments >100 ha
		classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody material, including roads, tracks and camps
	Grazing area management and adaptation based on ecosystem conservation	Any activity that will result in increased use of agrochemicals
	Forest fire prevention and control measures	Forestry: reforestation operation and/or silvicultural treatments >100 ha;
		classification of protected areas or zoological gardens, creation of parks, harvesting of woody material, including roads, tracks and camps <100 ha
Water	Development of resilient community water points	Dredging, digging, backfilling or filling (> 20 m linear or more than 100m2)

	Maintenance of shallows and water points	Development of deltaic or lagoon areas
	House modifications to optimize water intake	Activities that involve extraction of water such as drilling of boreholes and development of waterpoints for human use Deep drilling for water supply with a flow rate of 500m3/d
	Active land management to optimize water intake	Dredging, digging, backfilling or filling (> 20 m linear or more than 100m2)
		Activities that involve drilling of boreholes
		Construction of reservoirs and water catchment areas with additional footprint
	Energy	Industrial installation intended for the production of energy or steam
		Rehabilitation or construction of dams
		Water management Community water ponds for irrigation/livestock >20m3 volume
		Water management Water tanks for irrigation/livestock with a volume >20m3
		Solar energy catchment areas at household level
Infrastructure	Rehabilitation of road transport (rural roads) to make them resilient	Rehabilitation of roads right of way

Coastal and riverine protection	Construction of resilient public facilities and infrastructure	Construction of walled or covered structures
		Construction of infrastructures with new or additional footprint
	Implementation of coastal and riverine protection investments	Construction of coastal protection structures (groynes, breakwater, etc.)
		Any activity that promotes soil degradation and erosion, perturbation of ecosystems
Others	Loan to members of the administration and representatives of the municipality	
	Loan to private companies or associations	
	Financing of commercial and/or private activities	
	Salary and operating expenses of the municipality (offices, transport, office equipment and works)	
	Religious activities	
	Warranties	
	Any activity that will lead to involuntary displacement of people	
	Any other activity which, during its implementation, would result in medium or high environmental or social risks, in accordance with the risk analysis of the GCF action plan	
	Any drainage works.	

