

**LOCAL CLIMATE ADAPTIVE  
LIVING FACILITY Plus (LoCAL+)  
- West Africa (Burkina Faso,  
Ivory Coast, Mali and Niger)**

Indigenous People Plan

# Contents

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|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <a href="#">Contents</a>                                    | <a href="#">2</a>  |
| <a href="#">Glossary</a>                                    | <a href="#">3</a>  |
| <a href="#">1. Introduction</a>                             | <a href="#">4</a>  |
| <a href="#">2. Baseline information</a>                     | <a href="#">5</a>  |
| <a href="#">3. Risks and Opportunities</a>                  | <a href="#">10</a> |
| <a href="#">4. Stakeholder engagement</a>                   | <a href="#">13</a> |
| <a href="#">5. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)</a> | <a href="#">16</a> |
| <a href="#">6. Grievance Redress Mechanism</a>              | <a href="#">19</a> |
| <a href="#">7. Monitoring and Evaluation</a>                | <a href="#">22</a> |

# Glossary

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**Capacity Building:** Efforts to develop and enhance abilities, skills, and knowledge, especially in a community or organizational context.

**Cultural Heritage:** The legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations.

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment:** A process to evaluate the environmental and social impacts of a project, both positive and negative.

**FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent):** A process that ensures indigenous communities are given the opportunity to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories.

**Indigenous Peoples:** Groups of people who identify themselves as indigenous and are recognized by others or state authorities as having a unique collective identity, often connected to traditional territories.

**Indigenous peoples plan (IPP):** Outlines the actions to minimize and/or compensate for the adverse impacts and identify opportunities and actions to enhance the positive impacts of a project for indigenous peoples in a culturally appropriate manner.

**Stakeholder Consultations:** Meetings or discussions with those affected by a project, including indigenous communities, to seek their opinions and input.

**Traditional Knowledge:** Knowledge, know-how, skills, and practices that are developed, sustained, and passed on from generation to generation within a community.

**UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples):** An international instrument that sets out the rights of indigenous peoples.

# 1. Introduction

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The project aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169, and the Indigenous People Policy (IPP) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Indigenous Peoples exhibit these traits:

- Self-identification as indigenous, recognized by others or state authorities, signifying a unique collective identity.
- Historical ties to a specific territory, demonstrated through prolonged habitation and use.
- A voluntarily maintained cultural uniqueness, inherited across generations, including language, social organization, religious and spiritual beliefs, production methods, legal systems, and institutions.
- Experiences of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion, or discrimination.

The guiding principles of the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Indigenous People Policy (IPP) are comprehensive and aim to ensure that the rights and traditions of indigenous peoples are respected and integrated into GCF-funded projects. These principles are:

- Implementing free, prior, and informed consent, ensuring effective consultation for GCF-funded activities affecting indigenous peoples.
- Respecting and reinforcing rights to lands, territories, and resources, including cultural and spiritual heritage.
- Adhering to key international human rights and principles related to indigenous peoples, as outlined in UNDRIP and other relevant documents.
- Respecting the rights of indigenous peoples under voluntary isolation, protecting their lands, territories, and culture.
- Recognizing and valuing traditional knowledge and livelihood systems, promoting participation and leadership of indigenous knowledge holders.
- Building capacity within GCF for addressing indigenous peoples' issues and rights.
- Facilitating access for indigenous peoples to GCF resources, encouraging engagement and inclusivity.
- Respecting self-government systems, supporting the economic, social, and cultural development, and autonomy of indigenous communities.

All of the project countries have ratified the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The UNDRIP is a non-binding instrument, which means that it is not legally enforceable in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali and Niger. However, it does provide a framework for the governments of each country to develop and implement policies that protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

## 2. Baseline information

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Although they share some similarities, each country targeted by the programme has unique characteristics in terms of population distribution, socio-cultural landscape and relationship between different ethnic groups and minorities. Understanding these specificities and differences can help identify potential risks impacting the programme's implementation and success as well as design strategies for effective engagement of all relevant populations, which is a crucial step to ensure the programme's sustainability. Note that the beneficiary local governments have not yet been selected and that only a partial analysis of dynamics at the national level is possible at present. This analysis will be refined during the inception phase of the programme, as specific information and data for target each locality will be developed.

**Niger:** Niger is home to a variety of ethnic groups, including Hausa, Zarma-Songhai, Tuareg, Fulani, Kanuri, and others.<sup>1</sup>

The most recent Census was conducted in 2001. Meanwhile, results of the 2012 Census have yet to be finalized. Estimates by the US government for 2006 suggest the country's population made up of a majority of Hausa (53.1 per cent), followed by Zarma (Djerma/Songhai) (21.2 per cent), Tuareg (11 per cent), Fulani/Peulh (6.5 per cent), Kanuri (5.9 per cent), Gurma (0.8 per cent), Arab (0.4 per cent) and Toubou (0.4 per cent). However, in the absence of universally accepted figures, estimates vary as to the specific breakdown of ethnic groups in the country.

While their presence greatly contribute to the country's rich cultural diversity, differences and inequalities between these groups have often been sources of social tension and conflict. Indeed, Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world,<sup>2</sup> with large parts of the population depending on the use of natural resources for their livelihoods. Competition for these scarce resources, such as land and water, often leads to conflicts between different groups. In some cases, historical socioeconomic inequalities have often led upheavals and episodes of violence. For instance, long favoured by the colonial period, the Zarma/Songhai have have continued to compose an important part of the Nigerien educated political elite after independence in 1960,<sup>3</sup> in particular until the National Conference in 1991.<sup>4</sup> With such socioeconomic disparities, groups that feel disadvantaged often resort to violence as a means of expressing their dissatisfaction.

While communities like the Tuareg and Wodaabe raise Indigenous rights concerns, there's no official definition or comprehensive legal framework to base their claims against. Indeed, although the 2010 Constitution and other laws such as the 2010

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<sup>1</sup> Oxford Analytica. (2017). Insecurity in Niger may rise. *Emerald Expert Briefings*, (oxan-db).

<sup>2</sup> Amouzou, A., Habi, O., & Bensaïd, K. (2012). Reduction in child mortality in Niger: a Countdown to 2015 country case study. *The Lancet*, 380(9848), 1169-1178.

<sup>3</sup> Peter VonDoepp (2005). *The Fate of Africa's Democratic Experiments: Elites and Institutions*. Indiana University Press. pp. 35-36. ISBN 0-253-21764-4.

<sup>4</sup> Ibrahim, J. (1994). Political exclusion, democratization and dynamics of ethnicity in Niger. *Africa Today*, 41(3), 15-39.

Pastoralist Code address land rights and cultural diversity, specific Indigenous rights protections remains missing across the country. Today, ongoing conflicts, political instability, and weak governance structures continue to hinder the effective protection of Indigenous rights across the country. Indeed, Niger is currently facing significant threats due to the actions of Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs), which include groups like Boko Haram and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS). The presence of these groups and their attacks on state infrastructure and civilians across various regions of Niger present serious security challenges. On July 26, 2023, General Abdourahmane Tiani led a military coup that ousted the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum. In the aftermath of the coup, Niger's constitution was suspended, effectively dismantling the democratic framework, and General Tiani assumed control as the head of state, altering the country's political trajectory and raising concerns about the future of democracy and governance in the country.

**In Burkina Faso**, there is a great linguistic and ethnic diversity among the inhabitants of the country. Minority groups include Dioula, Fulani/Peulh and related groups, Lobi, Dagiri and affiliated, Bobo and Guransi. There are no reliable population figures for these groups. Pastoralism plays a critical role in the country's economy, supporting the livelihoods of approximately 50 million people across the Sahel and Sahara fringes. While the Fulani are the predominant pastoralist group, various ethnic groups within Burkina Faso engage in (agro-)pastoralism. Recent years have seen escalating conflicts over pastoral resources across the country, often between sedentary farmers and nomadic pastoralists.<sup>5</sup> It deserves however to be noted that ethnolinguistic allegiances have historically shifted in line with economic and climatic changes, a process that can be expected to continue and probably accelerate.

While Burkina Faso voted in favour of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007, the government does not officially recognize any specific groups as "Indigenous Peoples." Nevertheless, communities like the Fulani/Peulh and Bissa raise concerns about land rights and cultural marginalization, notably based on the 2009 Rural Land Charter which recognises customary land rights, potentially benefiting Indigenous communities. However, tensions persist between customary and statutory systems. Lack of legal clarity, limited awareness of Indigenous rights, and ongoing conflicts all pose important challenges in addressing their specific needs.

Furthermore, Burkina Faso faces risks stemming from its history of political instability and coups. The emergence of extremism, particularly in the Sahel and eastern regions, further complicates its security environment. In 2022, Burkina Faso's situation significantly worsened, marked by a series of deadly attacks by armed groups against civilians. Burkina Faso recently experienced two military coups. The first coup, occurring in January 2023, ousted President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and Lt.-Col. Paul Henri Damiba took the presidency role. Subsequently, Lt.-Col. Paul Henri Damiba

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<sup>5</sup> Bisson, L., Cottyn, I., Bruijne, K. de, & Molenaar, F. (2021). Between hope and despair Pastoralist adaptation in Burkina Faso [Review of *Between hope and despair Pastoralist adaptation in Burkina Faso*]. In *Clingendael*. Netherlands Institute of International Relations "Clingendael".. <https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/between-hope-and-despair.pdf>

was also overthrown by a second coup later in the year. This turmoil was compounded by escalating violence, with hundreds of attacks on civilians and military targets across 10 of the country's 13 regions. These attacks contributed to a staggering increase in number internally displaced persons, nearing 2 million since 2016—almost 10% of Burkina Faso's population. Furthermore, armed groups reportedly seized control of about 40% of the country, leading to mounting civilian and military casualties and loss of government-held territory. These events are reshuffling the cards when it comes to the ethnolinguistic equilibrium as well as potential tensions between communities throughout the country's various regions.

**Mali:** Mali is home to various ethnic groups: Funali/Peuhl (14.7 per cent), Songhai (1.6 per cent), Tuareg (7.7 per cent). Maure, Soninké (Saracolé) (10.8 per cent), Senoufo (10.5 per cent), Minianka, Dogon (8.9 per cent), Bozo (2.9 per cent), Diawara, Xaasongaxango (Khassonke).

Despite the fact that the 1992 constitution enshrined the principles of equality and non-discrimination, some deeply entrenched historical socioeconomic and geographic inequalities continue to between these different groups, with a significant lack of official definition or legal framework to protect Indigenous Population's rights. Since the period of colonization, southern ethnic groups have largely been favoured with Northern population receiving fewer advancement opportunities, leading to frequent episodes of violence and tension.<sup>6</sup> Land grabbing, marginalization, and limited participation in decision-making processes have been key concerns.

In recent years, ethnoreligious differences have been the source of violent conflict in the country. Thus, some Tuareg rebel groups, spurred by political marginalization and poverty in their home region in the North, and aspiring to a separate Tuareg state, Azawad, have been in low-level conflict with the government since the 1990s.<sup>7</sup> Since the 2010s, the security situation has deteriorated significantly, with armed Islamist groups launching attacks across various parts of the country. These groups have targeted civilians, soldiers, and international forces alike, with their activities not only persisting in the northern regions but also intensifying in the central areas and expanding into the south.<sup>8</sup> Since January 2023, the northeast of Mali has been particularly affected, witnessing widespread killings, rapes, and lootings of villages by Islamist armed factions, and rebels. These violent acts have driven thousands from their homes, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in the region.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, the political landscape in Mali has been significantly destabilized by coups in 2020 and 2021. In August 2020, the military, led by Assimi Goita, overthrew the democratically elected President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. In May 2021, the armed forces under Assimi Goita's command again seized power, dismissing a transitional government previously

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<sup>6</sup> Smith, C. R. (2014). *National Identity, Military Rule and French Intervention in Mali's Recent Political Crisis*. University of California, Los Angeles.

<sup>7</sup> Gaasholt, O. M. (2013). Northern Mali 2012: The short-lived triumph of irredentism. *The Strategic Review for Southern Africa*, 35(2).

<sup>8</sup> Human Rights Watch. (2020, December 18). *World Report 2021: Rights Trends in Mali*. Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/mali>

<sup>9</sup> *Mali: Mounting Islamist Armed Group Killings, Rape*. (2023, July 13). Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/07/13/mali-mounting-islamist-armed-group-killings-rape>

installed under international pressure. Subsequently, the coup leaders declared an intention to postpone presidential and legislative elections by up to five years. This series of events led to Mali's suspension from both the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), marking a significant diplomatic isolation in response to the coups.

**Ivory Coast** is home to over sixty different ethnic groups, whose linguistic and cultural identities and interrelationships are diverse and complex. The five main cultural clusters are: the dominant Akan-speakers, who make up 28.8 per cent of the population, mainly in the centre, east and south-east; Northern Manding (Mandé), mainly in the north-west; Voltaic peoples, including Senoufo in the north and Lobi in the central region; Krou in the south-west; and Southern Manding (Mandé) in the west.

Despite this diversity, there is limited recognition of indigenous People's rights in the country, with no official definition or specific legal framework for Indigenous Peoples. The 2016 Constitution guarantees fundamental rights for all citizens, but specific protections for Indigenous Peoples are absent. This lack of recognition, particularly for nomadic groups like the Fula, has led to increasing polarization of the country along geographic, religious and ethnic lines in recent years.

**Overall**, across Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Niger, the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights remain complex. While all four countries have ratified international human rights instruments like the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), translating these instruments into concrete national frameworks presents significant challenges.

Despite differences, all four countries face hurdles in recognizing and protecting Indigenous Peoples' rights. These include:

- Lack of specific legal frameworks.
- Limited awareness and capacity within government and civil society.
- Ongoing land conflicts and dispossession.
- Marginalization and discrimination based on ethnicity and cultural differences.

Nevertheless, some positive developments deserve to be underlined. In particular, Civil society advocacy and international engagement are increasingly pushing for improvements. In Niger, the Rural Code has enhanced land rights for pastoralist communities like the Tuareg, with education programs tailored to nomadic lifestyles. Burkina Faso has recognized traditional authorities' roles and included indigenous populations in development programs under the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES).

Mali has made progress through various Peace and Reconciliation efforts, which acknowledged the cultural and political autonomy of groups like the Tuareg and Dogon, alongside decentralization efforts that empower local communities. In Ivory Coast, legal reforms, such as the Rural Land Law of 1998, have addressed land tenure issues crucial for indigenous communities, while efforts to promote indigenous languages in education and media support cultural preservation.



These initiatives reflect a growing recognition of indigenous rights across these West African nations, though challenges remain, requiring ongoing efforts to ensure these communities can fully enjoy their rights and maintain their cultural heritage.

### 3. Risks and Opportunities

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**Outcome 1** focuses on the enhancement and strengthening of the role of local governments and local stakeholders in adaptation decision-making and the systemic integration of measures to address local climate risks in local development processes. However, risks exist such as the potential for project activities to not fully acknowledge the unique cultural and social dynamics of indigenous communities, which could lead to ineffective participation. Additionally, training programmes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, might face accessibility and relevance issues for all community members due to language barriers and varying educational backgrounds. On the opportunity side, this outcome offers a chance to empower indigenous peoples, and particularly women, who are often marginalized, and to increase community resilience through raising awareness about climate risks and potential adaptation measures. Local government investment in adaptation measures could substantially improve the livelihoods of indigenous people.

In **Outcome 2**, the focus is on increasing the access to climate finance available at the local and the share of resilience building investments in priority sectors. This outcome also comes with risks, such as the possibility that the development of small-scale climate resilience infrastructure could disrupt traditional lands and ecosystems. Opportunities here include the empowerment of Indigenous women through a focus on gender equality.

**To mitigate the above risks, several measures are proposed.** For Outcome 1, engaging indigenous leaders in local government planning can ensure that adaptation investments are prioritising the largest climate risks faced by Indigenous communities in the project areas. For Outcome 2, engaging Indigenous leaders in local government planning can ensure that adaptation investments are prioritising the largest climate risks faced by Indigenous communities in the project areas.

The risks, opportunities and mitigation measures can be better analysed in the table below:

**Table 1 - Risks, opportunities and mitigation measures**

| Outcome   | Risks   | Opportunities  | Mitigation Measures  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Outcome 1: Local climate governance is strengthened and enables the systemic integration of appropriate local adaptation responses into local development processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local governments may not fully consider the unique cultural and social dynamics of indigenous communities.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness about climate risks and sustainable land and water management practices.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage Indigenous leaders in local government planning and development processes.</li> <li>- Develop multilingual training materials and employ local translators.</li> </ul>                     |
| Outcome 2: Access to climate finance at the local level is enhanced and increases the share of resilience building investments in priority sectors                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training programs might not be accessible or relevant due to language barriers or differing educational backgrounds.</li> <li>- Poor participation in FPIC and inadequate consultation with Indigenous Peoples may result in potential conflict</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Empowerment of Indigenous women through a focus on gender equity.</li> </ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct thorough consultations with Indigenous communities for investment plans.</li> <li>- Plan infrastructure projects collaboratively with minimal disruption to traditional lands.</li> </ul> |

All adaptation interventions selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2 A2, B2, C2 and D2) will be designed and implemented so not to have any negative indirect impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups. Note that BOAD, and this programme, will not finance the following projects (please refer to annex 6A2 - ESMF):

- Production or trade in a product or activity deemed illegal under host country laws, regulations, international conventions and agreements, or subject to prohibitions, such as certain pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, substances harmful to the ozone layer, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), fauna or products regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Production or trade of arms and ammunition;
- Production or trade of alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine);
- Production or trade of tobacco;
- Gambling, casinos and equivalent companies;
- Production or trade of products with an asbestos plug (asbestos-free). This does not apply to procurement and labour exploitation where the asbestos to cement ratio in asbestos cement sheets is less than 20 per cent;
- Drift net fishing in the marine environment using nets in excess of 2.5 km in length;
- Production or activities involving harmful effects or exploitative forms of forced/harmful labour or child labour;
- Production or activities negatively and disproportionately affecting women and girls, persons in vulnerable positions and situations and marginalized groups;
- Activities considered unsafe and risky in terms of Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH);
- Category A projects according to BOAD procedures. A project is classified as Category A if it is likely to have significant adverse, sensitive, diverse or unprecedented impacts on the environment and society. These effects can be felt in an area larger than the sites or facilities subject to physical works;
- Any activity that may bring adverse impacts, including loss of access to assets or resources, or restrictions on land use.

## 4. Stakeholder engagement

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Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of the implementation modalities of this programme, which are defined according to the particular circumstances of each target country and deployed according to the local context of the target areas. Because climate change adaptation requires effective coordination between actors with differing mandates and needs, stakeholder engagement of local communities and of specific groups in particular Indigenous People is understood as a key factor in success and sustainability.

From the programme preparation stage, local authorities (“communes”) and communities have been closely consulted to collect their views, needs and priorities and help inform the programme design accordingly.

Regular field missions are also undertaken which allow to gather beneficiaries impressions and feedback on the implementation of PBCRGs. Such mission was organised recently in **Niger** (24-28 October 2023) during which local authorities and beneficiaries of the communes of Abalak (Tahoua region), Falwel and Sokorbé (Dosso region) were met - including transhumance herders and other groups that may self-identify as Indigenous Peoples- and their testimonies recorded.

Another mission was organised between 12 and 26 December 2023 in 12 communes of Niger (Damagaram Takaya, Kagna Wamé, et Kantché, Abalak, Tchintabaraden, Tébaram, Bagaroua et Allela, Dogon Kiria, Soucoucouthan, Falwel et Sokorbé) which notably allowed to raise local governments and communities’ awareness on planning and budgeting of climate resilience grants.

In Azorian (Nigerien commune of Abalak), a community of agro pastoralists had worked on a land reclamation site: 150 people (100 men and 50 women) from 6 villages worked for 3 months through Cash for Work. According to populations interrogated, the project helped to reduce internal migration, strengthen social cohesion, improve household income and restore the environment (meaning more food for animals).

In Gaberi (Falwel commune), a village of herders benefited from the rehabilitation of a well. This improved access to drinking water for people and animals, reduced water chore, and enabled young people to attend school regularly.

Another mission was organized from 22 January to 4 February, in the Niger communes of Gadabédji, Soli Tagriss (Maradi region), Tarka, Tanout and Falenko (Maradi region) which aimed to contact, inform, and mobilize customary and municipal authorities and beneficiary communities on the PBCRG system.

In **Burkina Faso**, a similar mission was held in the three communes of Pabré, Loubila and Saponé from 16 to 25 August 2023 and repeated in December of the same year (04-09). In **Mali**, analogous field missions were organised between 12 and 14 November 2023 and held again between 22 and 28 January 2024 in the communes of Sandaré and Simby (Kayes region). Thanks to regular contacts with village chiefs, each LoCAL

mission meets relevant vulnerable populations, organising relevant briefings and restitutions. At the level of each investment, meetings are organised with the different members of the investment's management committees.

For more detailed stories on communities' involvement through LoCAL, you may visit UNCDF website, and in particular this article: ["Fight against desertification strengthens community ties and boosts local economy in Niger"](#).

Specific consultations dedicated to LoCAL + have also taken place from 12 to 25 May 2024 in all four countries with the NDAs, representatives of the stakeholders and the beneficiaries. Please refer to Annexes 7,a,c, e and g.

Consultations will continue throughout this programme's implementation to ensure that all adaptation interventions selected at the local level have no negative indirect impacts on vulnerable and marginalized groups and bring positive adaptation benefits to the targeted populations. Meanwhile, the set-up of a clear M&E framework (based on ACCAF) and reporting system will allow to gather experiences and communicate learnings with targeted communities, gradually improving transparency and targeting of activities conducted at the local level. The programme will further ensure that expert field officers deployed to support local governments, and local actors speak local languages and understand local dynamics so as to better guide the implementation of grants - as is the cases in areas where LoCAL is already active.

The devolved and local nature of the decision-making process guaranteed (and incited) by PBCRGs will prompt regular involvement of beneficiaries at the local level, in a culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive and inter-generationally inclusive manner in accordance with the customs, norms, and values of the local communities, so as to maximise the active participation of most vulnerable and traditionally marginalised groups. Communities will therefore benefit from opportunities to participate in the implementation of the investments and their management, so that they meet their needs and generate resilient activities and revenues.

He, meaningful involvement of Indigenous People identified in the relevant intervention areas 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. All adaptation interventions selected from the menu of eligible investments (please refer to Annex 2 A2, B2, C2 and D2) will be designed and implemented so not to have any negative indirect impacts on Indigenous People, or other vulnerable and marginalized groups and to bring positive adaptation benefits to those populations. Meanwhile, use of indigenous knowledge will be promoted, taking into account community diagnoses and ensuring the validation of activities by local communities of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous knowledge on climate management will also be catalogued and transcribed into Indigenous languages. Targeted capacity-building will allow to ensure this is incorporated and diffused.

The programme 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, such as Indigenous People, ethnic minorities and women.

In terms of local stakeholders, during the inception phase, the project will undertake a mapping in each commune to identify relevant IP representatives, who will benefit from specific capacity building activities, and can be leveraged for wider awareness raising activities. Local engagements with these communities will happen at the following stages of the project deployment:

- (i) assessment of the local risks,
- (ii) planning of adaptation and of specific 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, indicators will be designed, and data (baseline and targets) will be collected in a disaggregated manner.

## 5. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)

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The project recognizes the inherent rights of indigenous communities in each of the four countries to own, utilize, develop, and govern the lands, territories, and resources they traditionally occupy or use, as well as those they have acquired by other means. Adhering to these rights, the project commits to implementing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):

- **Free:** Decision-making will be conducted independently, without external pressures.
- **Prior:** Indigenous communities will engage in their decision-making processes regarding the project before its commencement.
- **Informed:** Communities will receive comprehensive information necessary for informed decision-making.
- **Consent:** Decisions will be made collectively and independently by the communities affected after their own decision-making processes.

The FPIC process will be carefully and considerately conducted. More vulnerable communities may need additional time for internal consultations and decisions. The process will hinge on transparently sharing information about the project's impacts in a clear and honest manner, without disguising any potential negative effects. The environment for discussions will be free from intimidation, ensuring that community members and leaders can speak openly.

### **Key Elements of the Project's FPIC Strategy:**

#### **Engagement Methods:**

- The FPIC process will involve multiple meetings: an initial information session, ongoing updates, and a final decision-making meeting.
- Indigenous peoples will be consulted well before any project activities commence, respecting their traditional decision-making timelines.
- Participation of indigenous peoples through their chosen representatives and institutions will be encouraged.
- The perspectives of diverse community members, including women, children, and youth, will be considered.
- Traditional leaders, alongside or separate from government-appointed local authorities, will be included.
- Specific mechanisms will be established to ensure equitable access to the necessary resources for full and effective participation in the FPIC process.

#### **Communication Tools:**

- Information dissemination will be in languages and formats that are accessible to all community members, considering different literacy levels.



- Communications will cover:
  - The purpose and duration of the project.
  - The geographical areas affected by the project.
  - Preliminary assessments of environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts, including potential risks.
  - Mechanisms for fair, equitable, and culturally appropriate benefit-sharing.
  - Information about the various stakeholders involved, including indigenous peoples, governmental agencies, and research institutions.

This approach ensures that the project not only respects the rights of indigenous communities in each of the four countries but also actively involves them in a meaningful and culturally sensitive manner.

The FPIC checklist provided in Table 2 below will be used by the project.

Table 2 - FPIC Checklist

|  | Yes | No | Unknown | N/A |
|--|-----|----|---------|-----|
| 1) Do project staff possess the necessary knowledge and competence to work with indigenous peoples in the project area in a culturally appropriate manner? |     |    |         |     |
| 2) Has a detailed communication strategy been developed that considers the indigenous peoples' languages, mechanisms, and locations?                       |     |    |         |     |
| 3) Have legitimate leaders of the indigenous communities in the project area been identified, met, and consulted?  |     |    |         |     |
| 4) Have the communities involved been given sufficient time to seek expert advice on the project?  |     |    |         |     |
| 5) Have effective mechanisms and procedures been established for participation in the FPIC process?  |     |    |         |     |
| 6) Has a Participatory mapping analysis with relevant local information been carried out?  |     |    |         |     |
| 7) Have timely consultations been carried out, well in advance of project design?  |     |    |         |     |

|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 8) Have the indigenous communities been enabled to fully and effectively participate in all stages of the project?   |  |  |  |  |
| 9) Has project information (including assessments and plans) been disseminated early and through appropriate means?  |  |  |  |  |
| 10) Has the proper understanding of the provided information by the indigenous communities been verified?  |  |  |  |  |
| 11) Is the consultation process fully documented?  |  |  |  |  |
| 12) Has the documentation of the consultation process been disclosed timely and using appropriate languages, formats, and locations?   |  |  |  |  |
| 13) Has consent been explicitly provided, recorded, and affirmed in the format preferred by the community?   |  |  |  |  |
| 14) Do the project's monitoring and evaluation include indicators relevant to indigenous peoples?  |  |  |  |  |
| 15) Has the community been engaged in a negotiation process on land, resources agreements, governance, legal and financial arrangements, employment opportunities, culturally appropriate benefits sharing, and dispute resolutions? |  |  |  |  |

## 6. Grievance Redress Mechanism

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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.

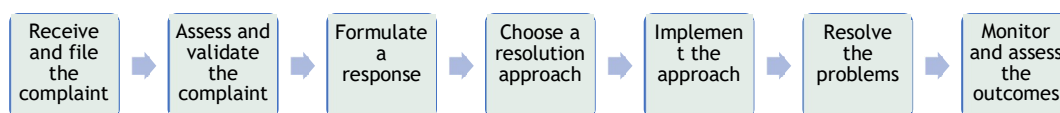
The GRM is in line with the GCF ESP guidelines. Its scope covers:

- Natural resources
- Pollution
- Cultural assets
- Land acquisition
- Welfare of vulnerable groups
- Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)
- Health and safety of workers
- Financial improprieties
- Other related issues raised in the ESS screening process.

At the program level, a GRM will be established under the responsibility of the regional PMU with supervision of the Board. 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 and BOARD and to ensure the GRM is being correctly implemented by the EEs.

### **Receiving, accepting, and responding to grievances**

When a grievance is received, 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 BOAD coordination team (contacts to be made publicly available); d) via the 'contact us' form at BOAD'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 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.**

#### **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), GRC will use a '*survivor-centred approach*', ensuring the rights and needs of the survivor (or victim) are at the foremost priority of everyone involved in the programme

## Grievance Procedure

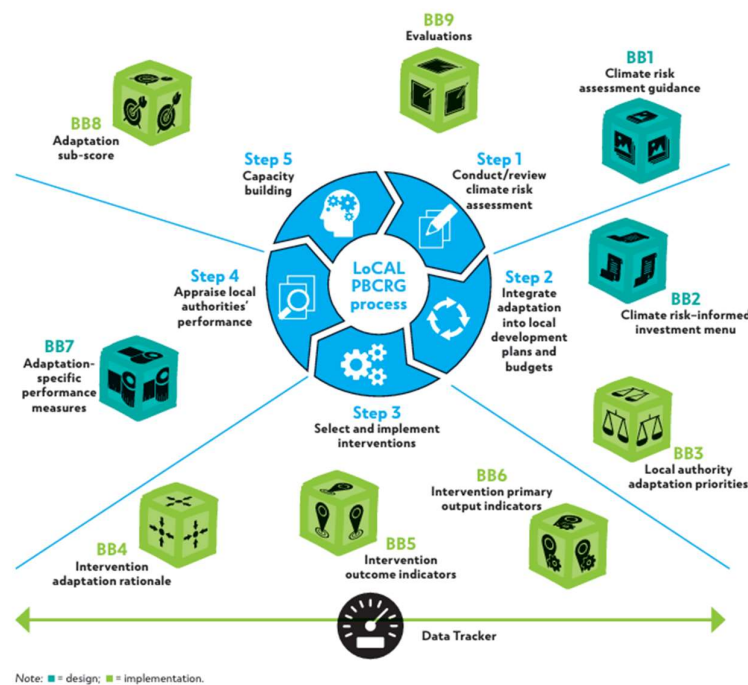
|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Step 1</b> | In the event of any Grievance, the complainant can make clarifications and or file a formal complaint at the field/ site office. The Grievance committee shall launch an investigation if necessary, and should respond to the complainant and have the situation resolved within one week (7 days) (once a resolution is arrived the process stops) if the matter is not resolved see <b>step 2</b>  |
| <b>Step 2</b> | The Grievance committee will recommend that the affected person or persons submit their complaints to the Steering Committee. This application should be made directly to the Steering Committee or through the site office. The matter should be responded to and or resolved within 3 days  |
| <b>Step 3</b> | In the case of compensation, once the application is evaluated by the Grievance committee, it will determine if the claim is within their scope and acknowledge receipt of complaint within 3 days. The Grievance committee will forward the complaint application to the Steering Committee for resolution and or action. the Steering Committee should respond to the complainant within 14 days.   |
| <b>Step 4</b> | If the complaint is not one for compensation, but rather a matter which has placed a neighbouring Indigenous community in distress (lack of access, loss of livelihood, security, project related flooding). The site office and Grievance committee should engage the community and or persons to derive a reasonable resolution. The minutes of this meeting should be documented. The community or complainant should be informed in writing within 7 days of actions to be taken. |
| <b>Step 5</b> | In the event the complainant is not satisfied with decisions made by the grievance committee he or she may submit a complaint directly to the Steering committee or through the site office for a resolution. The committee shall respond to the complainant within 7 working days.   |
| <b>Step 6</b> | In the event a suitable resolution is not derived. The complainant can take Legal Actions.  |

## 7. Monitoring and Evaluation

As described in the funding proposal, a common monitoring and evaluation framework will be designed for the LoCAL + programme. It will be aligned with the Assessing Climate Change Adaptation Framework (ACCAF) developed by UNCDF in partnership with the World Resources Institute.

ACCAF has been designed to help ensure that the adaptation aims of the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) are being achieved. The ACCAF is organized in line with the PBCRG process and consists of nine building blocks (BBs) for an effective adaptation M&E system. Three components relate to the technical design elements of the mechanism in each country and six relate to the deployment of the PBCRG system from year to year. Please refer to ACCAF Manual for more details.<sup>10</sup>

Figure 1: The ACCAF building blocks



The ACCAF will be handed over to local governments, which will use the framework to track adaptation investments and benefits at the local level through the PBCRG including in relationship with Indigenous Populations' inclusion. Regular missions from the national technical teams (together with UNCDF) will be undertaken all along the implementation of the investments, while the Annual Performance Assessments will allow to evaluate the situation and inclusiveness of each realization, which is a condition for accessing next cycle of implementation. Field Officers will also be permanently deployed on the ground (1 for 3 local governments in average). These persons will be key in supporting the daily operations of PBCRGs, including implementation of ACCAF on the field, linking with the members of the Technical Committees, local authorities, representatives of minorities and indigenous populations and relevant state services.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.uncdf.org/article/7738/accaf-a-uncdf-local-framework-for-climate-change-adaptation-monitoring-and-evaluation>

The same framework will be also extended to private sector-sponsored investments originating from the Blended Finance Facilities' pipelines. It is expected that the ACCAF will contribute to the achievement of the programme's adaptation objectives and demonstrate its contribution through the financing mechanisms deployed. The programme M&E system will be defined in such a way as to supplement or strengthen the monitoring systems of the programme partners and to feed the set of indicators presented in the logical framework.

Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the programme will be carried out under the responsibility of the regional oversight bodies (Regional PMU) in close collaboration with national oversight and decision-making bodies (LoCAL Technical Committees, Blended Finance Facilities Committees, EEs, and local governments). At the level of each country, annual performance assessments of the target local government will be carried out - neutrality will be ensured from the pre-established performance measures. The regional PMU will be in charge of coordinating the reporting work and producing the annual report of each country. Each report will provide an account of the implementation of the activities, the difficulties encountered, the lessons learned, as well as the degree of achievement of the objectives measured by the corresponding indicators, referring to the logical framework matrix. The report will be designed to allow a follow-up of the means envisaged and used, in financial terms. The national annual reports will be consolidated at regional scale then submitted to the Regional Programme Board, which will ensure the quality control of the results obtained and will contribute to the highlighting of the alert points and adjustments if necessary. The report will then be submitted for validation to GCF by BOAD as AE.

An evaluation report will be produced at the end of the programme as well as at mid-term - in order to take into account possible warning points and adjustments. These reports will be produced in coherence with the international evaluation benchmarks while specifically feeding the GCF impact and results indicators. The ACCAF framework will be used to characterize resilience improvement trajectories. Reports will be shared with programme partners; a transversal working seminar for the 4 countries could be organized involving relevant national and subnational stakeholders. These reports will be sent to the GCF, once validated by the BOAD; where appropriate, adjustments and follow-up measures will be implemented. The evaluation work will be carried out by independent experts to ensure neutrality and objectivity.