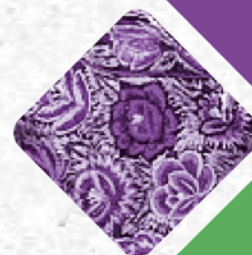


# LEADING PARTICIPATORY MONITORING PROCESSES THROUGH A GENDER JUSTICE LENS FOR GREEN CLIMATE FUND FINANCED PROJECTS

Insights from the implementation  
of FP089 RECLIMA El Salvador



@marie-piedra





APRIL 2024

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Fondo Tierra Viva

Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)

International Analog Forestry Network (IAFN)

Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (UNES)

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

- ◆ **AIDA:** Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense)
- ◆ **APR:** Annual Performance Report
- ◆ **CENTA:** Centro Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal (National Center of Agricultural and Forestry Technology)
- ◆ **FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization
- ◆ **FCAM:** Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (Central American Women's Fund)
- ◆ **FIAES:** Fondo de Inversión Ambiental de El Salvador (El Salvador's Environmental Investment Fund)
- ◆ **GAGGA:** Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action
- ◆ **GAP:** Gender Action Plan
- ◆ **GCF:** Green Climate Fund
- ◆ **IAFN:** International Analog Forestry Network
- ◆ **MAG:** Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería de El Salvador (El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)
- ◆ **MARN:** Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de El Salvador (El Salvador's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources)
- ◆ **NDA:** Designated National Authority
- ◆ **RECLIMA:** Project FP089 Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador
- ◆ **UNES:** Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (Salvadorean Ecological Unit)
- ◆ **UNFCCC:** United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ◆ **WEDO:** Women's Environment and Development Organization

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 2022, partner organizations of the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action \(GAGGA\)](#), including the [International Analog Forestry Network \(IAFN\)](#), [Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente \(Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense, AIDA\)](#), [Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres \(Central American Women's Fund, FCAM\)](#), [Fondo Tierra Viva \(Tierra Viva Fund\)](#) and [Women's Environment and Development Organization \(WEDO\)](#), collectively launched a pilot initiative. The main objective was to pioneer in Latin America a participatory monitoring process of a currently implemented project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), with a special focus on gender equality. Specifically, it aimed to monitor the implementation of the project *FP089 Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)*. For the initiative's fieldwork, an alliance was forged with [Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña \(Salvadorean Ecological Unit, UNES\)](#), a local ecofeminist NGO advocating for environmental and gender justice.

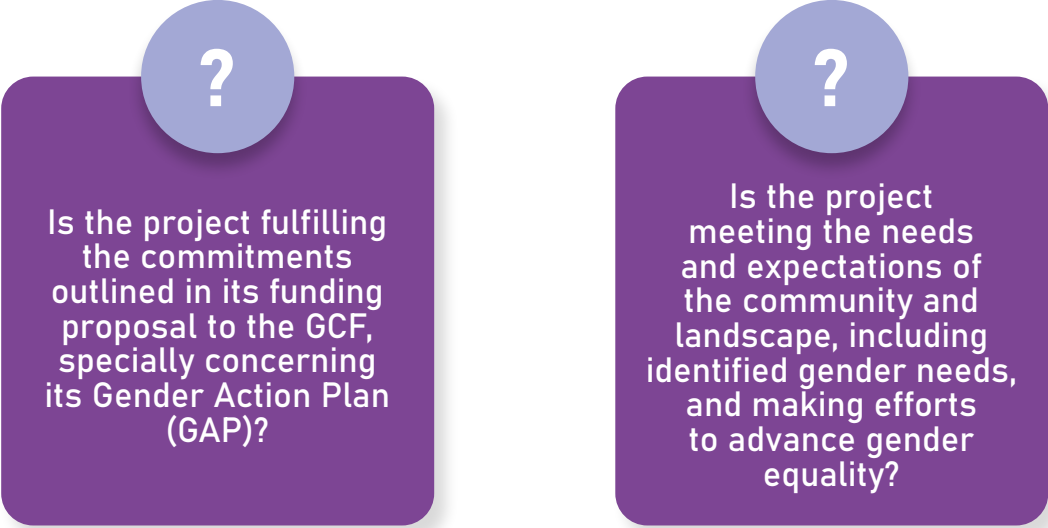
The RECLIMA project was approved by the Board of Directors of the GCF during its 21st meeting (B.21) in 2018. Implementation, backed by nearly 128 million USD, officially began in July of 2019. This cross-cutting project integrates both adaptation and mitigation efforts and received financing from various sources. A nearly 36 million USD grant came from the GCF, supplemented by contributions from El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, MAG) and Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, MARN), and the Environmental Investment Fund of El Salvador (Fondo de Inversión Ambiental de El Salvador, FIAES). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Accredited Entity that proposed this project to the GCF, also serves as an Executing Entity, alongside the other three financiers.

RECLIMA focuses on building climate resilience for family farmers through an agroecosystem-based approach to adaptation. The project aims to support 50,000 family farms by transforming their production practices, upgrading basic infrastructure, and strengthening technical knowledge to develop fully sustainable and resilient food systems.

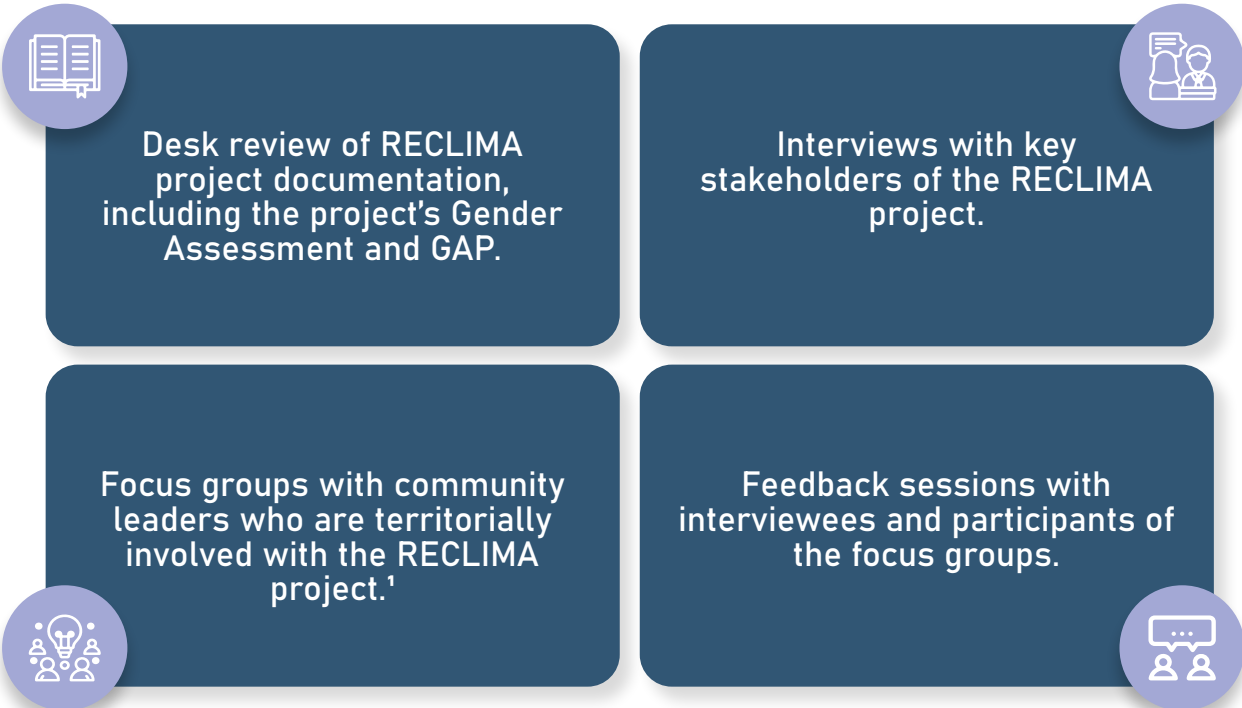
The project comprises three overarching components:



Participatory monitoring involves actively engaging stakeholders at various levels in the monitoring and/or evaluation process. For projects financed by the GCF, participatory monitoring systems can improve credibility, transparency, and accountability. By including stakeholders, such as Designated National Authorities (NDAs) and Accredited and Executing Entities. These systems ensure a thorough analysis of project implementation. In the case of this pilot initiative, the participatory monitoring process aimed to facilitate a collective assessment of RECLIMA's implementation in El Salvador, guided by two key questions:



The process began in April 2023 and concluded in December 2023. Its methodology included the following activities:

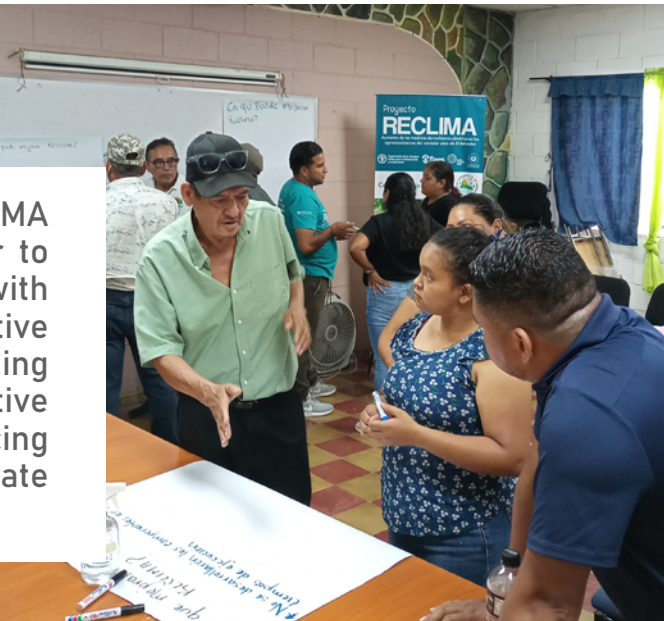


<sup>1</sup> An additional focus group was convened with organizations not directly affiliated with the RECLIMA project, but actively engaged in adaptation, climate resilience, and ecosystem restoration projects within the same territories.

Key Findings

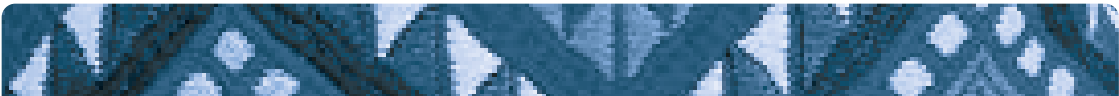
Overall perceptions of the project:

The general sentiment regarding RECLIMA is positive. It is seen as a contributor to strengthening community resilience with tangible impacts. Additionally, the initiative has played an important role in imparting digital competencies, facilitating effective farm monitoring, and thereby enhancing communities' capacity to address climate and environmental challenges.



Gender in RECLIMA:

- Regarding RECLIMA's Gender Assessment, some weaknesses were identified, mainly related to the generality of the information presented, lacking specific references to the local context. In RECLIMA's GAP, a key focus is strengthening the capabilities of Accredited and Executing Entities in gender-related aspects to better support initiatives in various regions. While the GAP's indicators provide quantitative insights into women's participation and engagement in the project over time, they fall short in elucidating the impact of project interventions on societal norms, cultural values, behaviors, and unequal power structures.
- Despite explicit intentions to prioritize women's engagement and participation in the project's activities, findings from focus groups and interviews reveal ongoing challenges. Women encounter difficulties in actively engaging in RECLIMA activities due to their multiple responsibilities. They struggle to carve out the necessary space and time amidst domestic tasks, agricultural duties, and the additional role of organizing and mobilizing women in their communities. They underscore the persistent burden that hampers their ability to fully participate in the various project initiatives.
- The Accredited and Executing Entities of the RECLIMA project have made relevant efforts to strengthen their institutional practices regarding gender. FAO El Salvador hired three gender specialists to support the project, implement the RECLIMA GAP, and provide expertise. FAO also developed technical guidance documents for affirmative actions and inclusive language use, in addition to updating their Action Protocol for Labor and Sexual Harassment. Despite these efforts, while three out of four Executing Entities have female leaders coordinating the project within their organizations, only two of them have the mandate to ensure gender perspective is integrated throughout all project implementation stages. FAO El Salvador and other Executing Entities are also engaging in a consultation process with community-based organizations to enhance gender considerations in future project actions.



# Recommendations

While findings indicate that gender integration is a priority in RECLIMA, there is space for the project to evolve into a truly gender-transformative climate initiative. To this end, the following key recommendations are proposed:



Conduct a deeper intersectional gender analysis of the project context as part of the ongoing consultation process.

Utilize the insights from the gender analysis to identify, plan and allocate resources for affirmative actions addressing identified structural barriers. For instance, allocate funds for childcare support to ensure women's active participation in project activities.



Collaborate closely with local feminist organizations linked to the environmental and climate justice movements to provide guidance and support in conducting a comprehensive and contextually relevant gender analysis.

Recognize and value the diversity of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives of all members in local communities. It is also imperative to move beyond a binary approach (women/men) within RECLIMA's gender framework.



# I. Introduction



The [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#), a multilateral climate fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), allocates funding for projects and programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change impacts in developing countries. To date, the GCF board has approved 243 projects worldwide, committing 13.5 billion USD in total. Notably, approximately 26% of these projects and programs target Latin America.<sup>2</sup>

This financial mechanism has become a lynchpin of the climate finance architecture, challenging conventional approaches to international projects. It is governed by a board with equal representation from developed and developing countries (UNFCCC designations); robust environmental and social policies rooted in human rights; an indigenous people's policy, backed by an advisory group that interfaces with the Secretariat and the Board; a stated preference for maximal information disclosure; a seat for active observers representing civil society organizations; strong ties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement; and an explicit mandate to include a gender perspective. In fact, all approved projects and programs are required to integrate a Gender Action Plan (GAP). In addition, the GCF is mandated by its own policies to facilitate stakeholder participation mechanisms. These mechanisms encompass representation from diverse sectors, including the private sector, civil society organizations, vulnerable groups, women, and indigenous peoples.

Though implementation of these safeguards and progressive policies is far from perfect, their existence lays the groundwork for stronger future implementation. Civil society, including feminist movements and organizations, engage with the GCF as a climate finance mechanism that should continue to be strengthened. The explicit analysis and commitment mandated for each project regarding social and gender considerations not only facilitate engagement but also uphold accountability.

<sup>2</sup> See project portfolio at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/dashboard>.

In late 2022, partner organizations of the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action \(GAGGA\)](#), including the [International Analog Forestry Network \(IAFN\)](#), [Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente \(Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense, AIDA\)](#), [Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres \(Central American Women's Fund, FCAM\)](#), [Fondo Tierra Viva \(Tierra Viva Fund\)](#) and [Women's Environment and Development Organization \(WEDO\)](#), collectively launched a pilot initiative. The project aimed to facilitate participatory monitoring of the implementation of the project *FP089 Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)*.<sup>3</sup> RECLIMA was approved by the Board of Directors of the GCF during its 21st meeting (B.21) in 2018. For the fieldwork, an alliance was formed with Unidad Ecológica Salvadoreña (Salvadorean Ecological Unit, UNES), a local ecofeminist NGO advocating for environmental and gender justice in El Salvador.

The main objective of this project was to pioneer a participatory monitoring process for a GCF-funded project, with specific emphasis on gender equality. Each participating organization approached this collaborative initiative with genuine curiosity, eager to explore its feasibility and potential impact. There was also a collective commitment to openly share information about the process, results, challenges, and lessons learned. This report aims to summarize the outcomes of this exercise, providing an overview of the RECLIMA project and highlighting the importance of gender equality and participatory monitoring within climate projects; as well as sharing primary findings and key recommendations, tailored to GCF Accredited and Executing Entities.



<sup>3</sup> For more information on the project, refer to <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp089>.

## II. The Project: FP089 Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)

The RECLIMA project, in El Salvador was approved in October 2018, with the implementation of the nearly 128 million USD officially beginning in July of 2019. This cross-cutting project integrates both adaptation and mitigation efforts and received financing from various sources. A nearly 36 million USD grant came from the GCF, supplemented by contributions from El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, MAG) and Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, MARN), and the Environmental Investment Fund of El Salvador (Fondo de Inversión Ambiental de El Salvador, FIAES). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Accredited Entity that proposed this project to the GCF, also serves as an Executing Entity alongside the other three financiers.

The RECLIMA project focuses on building climate resilience for family farmers through an agroecosystem-based approach to adaptation. The project aims to support 50,000 family farms by transforming their production practices and improving their basic infrastructure and technical knowledge to develop fully sustainable and resilient food systems. The project comprises three overarching components:



Within these components, the project has taken, and will take forward actions such as:

- Improving agricultural extension systems.
- Promoting a landscape approach to the provision of ecosystem services through the restoration of vegetative cover.
- Contributing to improved access to water through rainwater harvesting, storage and distribution.

**Table 1:** Key information on the RECLIMA project. Source: [GCF FP089 Project Overview](#)

|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beneficiary population                           | Directly benefits 225,000 people from 50,000 farming families.<br>Indirectly impacts an estimated 1,064,618 people through the implementation of agroecosystem landscape management models. | Executing Entities     | AG, including the National Center of Agricultural and Forestry Technology (Centro Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal - CENTA).<br>MARN<br>FIAES                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Hectares to be restored/reforested               | Targets 17,333 hectares of forest to promote the maintenance of key ecosystem services.                                                                                                     | Implementation area    | Covers 114 municipalities in the Dry Corridor of El Salvador. Territorial distribution by landscape includes:<br><br>RÍO PAZ- CARA SUCIA (10 municipalities)<br>JIBOA-JALTEPEQUE (17 municipalities)<br>JIQUILISCO-TECAPÁN (22 municipalities)<br>FONSECA GULF (9 municipalities)<br>RÍO GRANDE DE SAN MIGUEL - GOASCORÁN (34 municipalities)<br>LEMPA (22 municipalities) |
| CO2 to be sequestered                            | Aims to sequester 4,216,835 tons of CO2eq.                                                                                                                                                  |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Accredited and Executing Entity of the GCF Funds | FAO-El Salvador                                                                                                                                                                             | Budget                 | 127.7 million USD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                             | Estimated project life | July 2019 - July 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

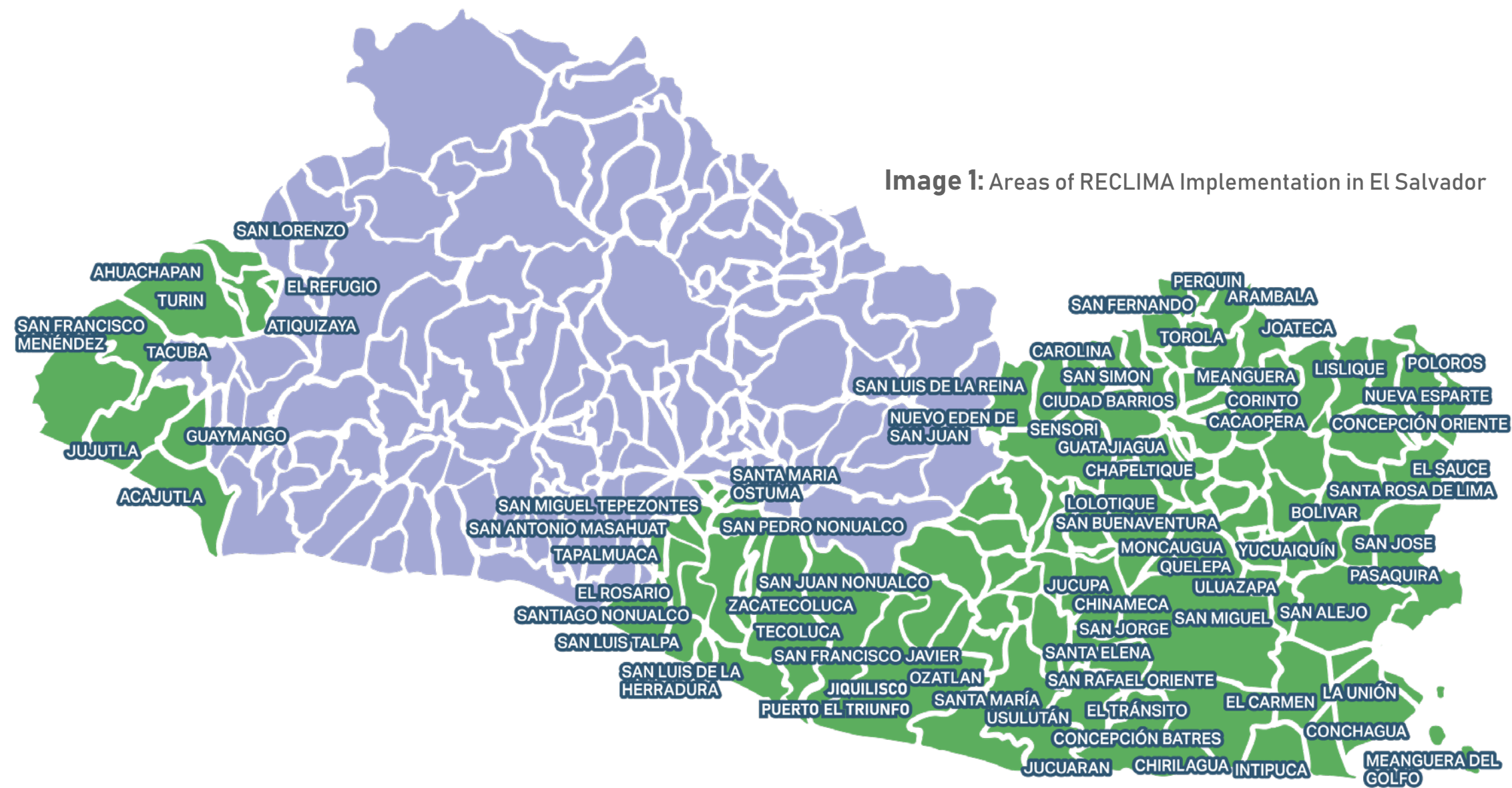
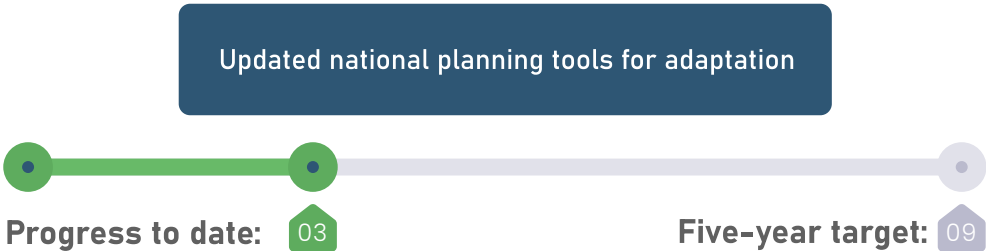
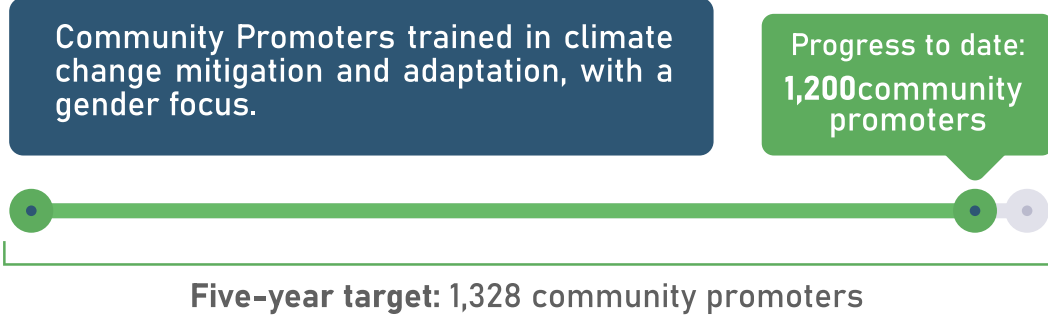
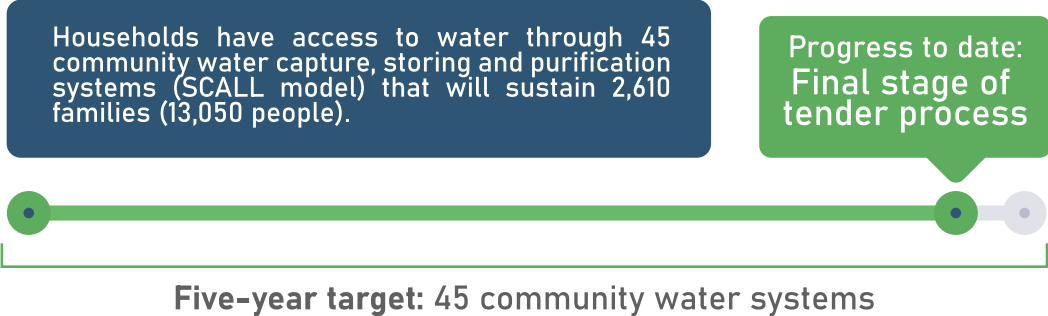
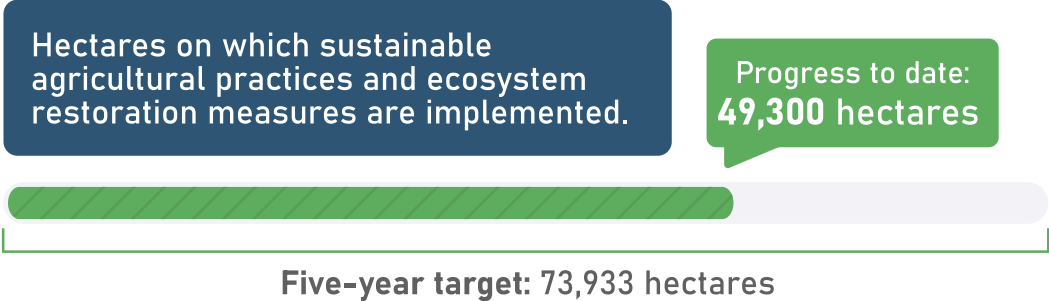
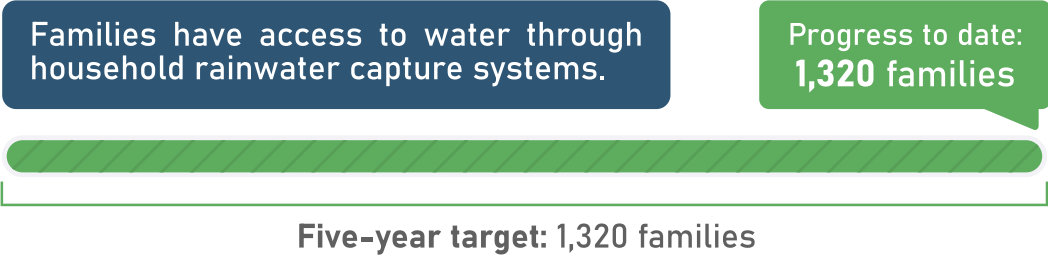
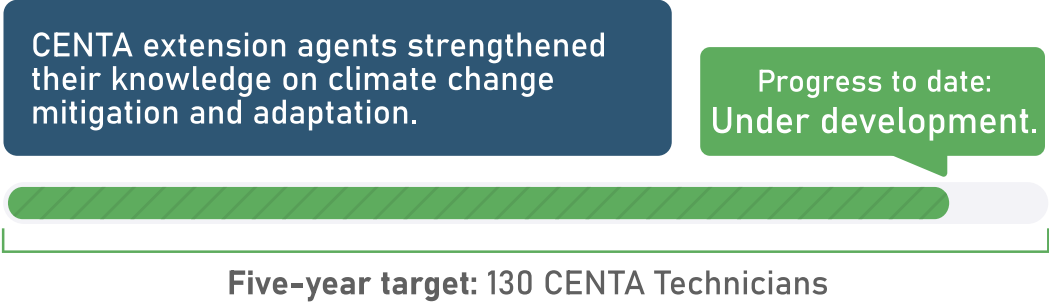
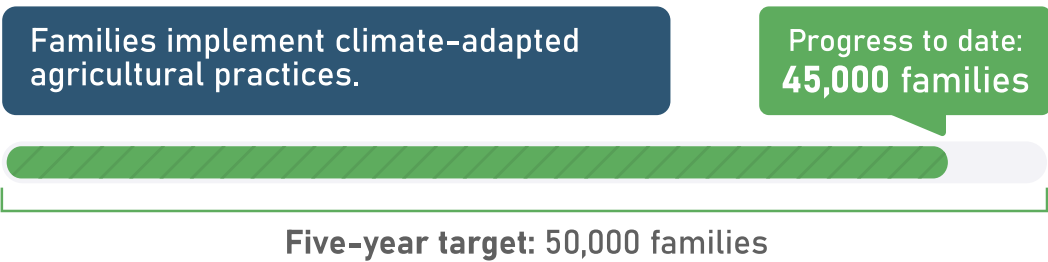


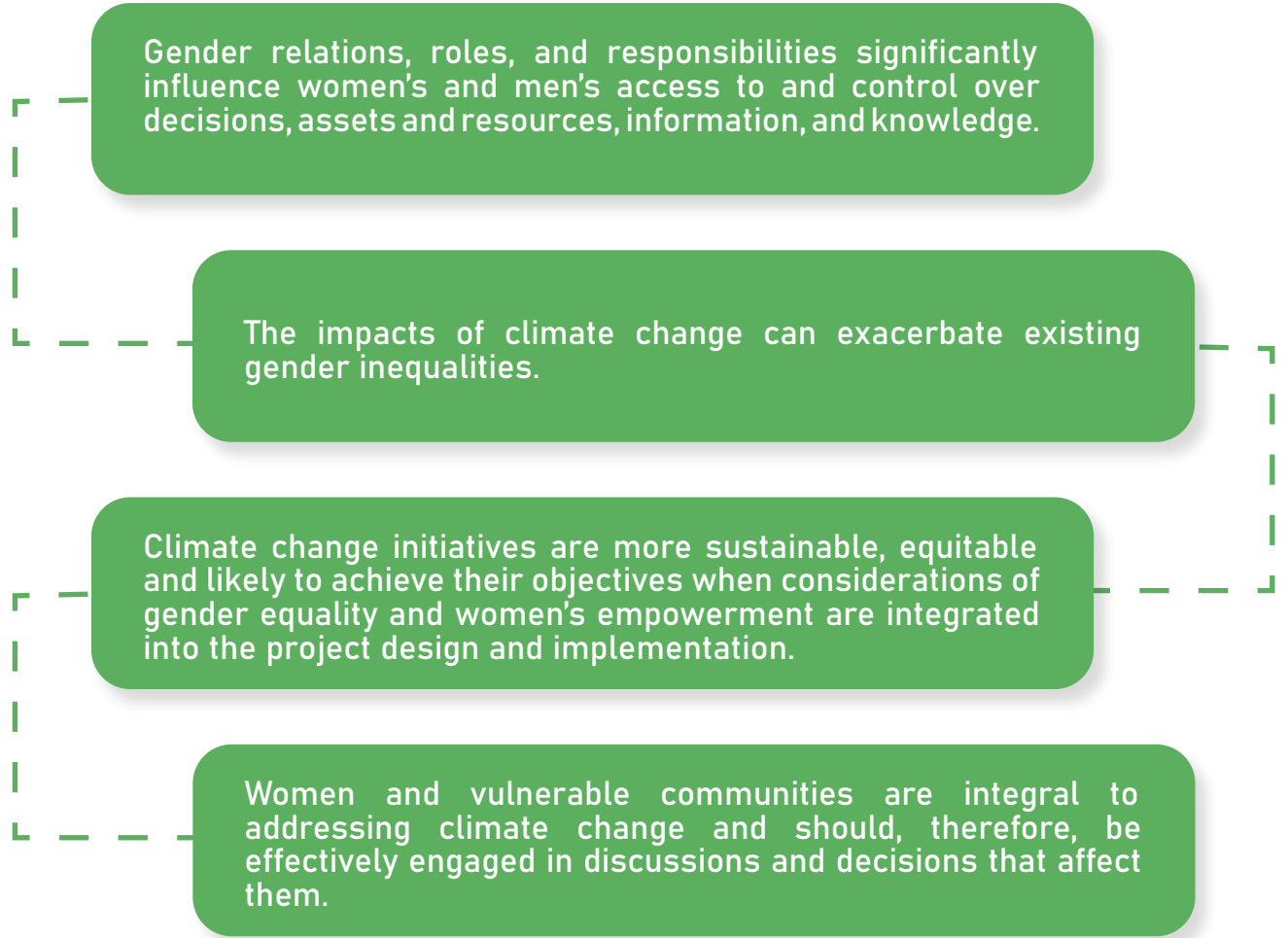
Table 2: RECLIMA’s main advances Source: FAO El Salvador, September 2023



# III. Gender & the GCF

Historically and socially excluded people and communities—such as women, children, the elderly, non-binary and LGBTQ+ individuals, Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups, amongst others—encounter significant hurdles in accessing resources and services for various climate initiatives. They also face numerous barriers to participate in decision-making processes related to climate at local, national, and international levels. Despite these challenges, these very individuals and communities serve as crucial agents of change, playing a fundamental role in protecting and restoring their territories' biodiversity and ecosystems. Often, they assume leadership roles in advocating for environmental and climate justice, possessing invaluable knowledge and skills that can drive community-led and holistic responses to the global environmental and climate crises we currently face.

The GCF stands out as a leader amongst climate financing mechanisms for its incorporation of robust environmental and social policies rooted in human rights. In 2019, the GCF introduced an updated and revised Gender Policy.<sup>4</sup> In this policy, the GCF recognizes that:



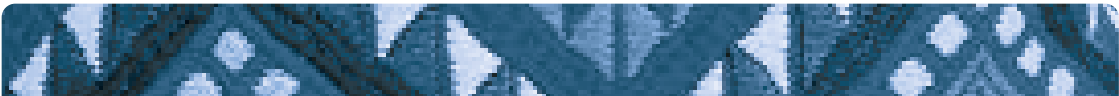
<sup>4</sup> For the complete Gender Policy, refer to <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-policy>

Furthermore, the Gender Policy mandates that every funding proposal must conduct a Gender Assessment and present a GAP. The specifics are as follows:

- The Gender Assessment is a tool used during project preparation to examine the roles, rights, needs, and opportunities of women, men, boys, and girls in a given project/program context.
- The GAP within a GCF project serves as a structured framework to address gender challenges and opportunities within the context of the climate crisis. According to the GCF, GAPs should include:
  - Gender-sensitive actions that address and strengthen the voice and agency of vulnerable women and men in climate action.
  - Gender performance indicators and sex-disaggregated targets that can be incorporated into a results framework.
  - Presentation of the impacts of development with a gender perspective.

The Gender Policy and associated measures, such as the requirements to produce GAPs and Gender Assessments, evidence acknowledgment of the interconnection between climate change and social and gender inequalities. They also reflect a commitment to ensuring effective gender integration at all stages of GCF-funded project implementation. However, follow-through, transparency, and accountability in implementing the Gender Policy and accompanying instruments are still lagging. For example, progress on the GAP, let alone its achievement, is not required during implementation. Proponents merely comply by reporting their existence. Moreover, reporting is conducted by Accredited Entities within the Annual Performance Reports (APRs), but in a narrative form, making specific targets and indicators easily obscured or under-reported. Additionally, since many GAPs set targets only for the end of the project, assessing if progress is off-track can be subjective. Naturally, the GAP is not the sole method for monitoring gender responsiveness of a project, but other mechanisms have not been institutionalized.

Institutions and mechanisms leading the charge in climate resourcing and advocating for social and gender justice, such as the GCF, must move beyond ensuring equity in access and participation. They must also recognize, understand, and actively address the hurdles and barriers faced by historically and socially excluded people and communities. This entails understanding how intersecting identities (ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation) can exacerbate inequities. It involves providing support to actively tackle the complex impacts and barriers arising from overlapping systems of oppression (patriarchy, racism, colonialism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, amongst others).



# IV. Participatory Monitoring of Project Implementation & the GCF

Participatory monitoring involves actively engaging stakeholders at various levels in the monitoring and evaluation of funded projects. It ensures that both the process and outcomes are relevant to local stakeholders directly impacted by the project. Additionally, it empowers them to share control over the content, process, decision-making and results, facilitating their involvement in identifying and implementing corrective actions.<sup>5</sup> In the context of the GCF, participatory monitoring systems can improve the credibility, transparency, and accountability of financed projects, as well as as Designated National Authorities and Accredited and Executing Entities.

According to the Governing Instrument of the GCF, projects and programs, as well as other activities financed by the Fund, should undergo regular monitoring for impact, efficiency, and effectiveness, following rules and procedures established by the Board. The GCF Secretariat itself promotes these types of initiatives by civil society,<sup>6</sup> encouraging Accredited Entities to support and collaborate in participatory monitoring processes led by civil society, and guided by the GCF Environmental and Social Management System <sup>7</sup>.

Despite the governing instrument providing clear guidance on the importance of incorporating participatory monitoring of GCF funded projects, in practice the Secretariat is not visibly promoting it nor supporting its implementation. For example, concept notes and proposals do not mention this type of monitoring approach, nor does the Secretariat provide guidance or request monitoring and evaluation information on projects that incorporate participatory elements.

To date, civil society organizations and networks that monitor the GCF, such as GCF Watch, focus on overseeing the approval process of projects and programs. They aim to amplify the voices of local communities that will benefit or be affected by these projects advocating for adherence to the Fund's social, environmental, and gender policies during the design stage. However, recognizing the importance of on-site monitoring during implementation, civil society is increasingly shifting its focus after over a decade of the Fund's existence. Some civil society-led participatory monitoring experiences have already taken place in Africa and Asia. Nevertheless, limited guidance, funding, and outreach from DNAs and Accredited and Executing Entities hinder civil society and local communities' engagement in such processes.



5 Refer to: [Germanwatch, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in the Green Climate Fund – and How Civil Society Can Engage: Briefing Report \(2020\)](#)  
6 See: [GCF Independent Redress Mechanism, From Proposals to Complaints, Participatory Monitoring is Essential \(2021\)](#)  
7 More information at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-2017-inf02>

# V. RECLIMA's Participatory Monitoring Methodology

With the support of GAGGA, the organizations IAFN, AIDA, FCAM, Fondo Tierra Viva and WEDO collaborated to spearhead a participatory monitoring initiative for the implementation of RECLIMA. This initiative served as a pilot project to establish a participatory monitoring process for a GCF-funded project in Latin America, led by civil society actors and actively involving local communities. The primary objective was to foster a collective analysis of RECLIMA's implementation in El Salvador, guided by two key questions:

- ?

Is the project fulfilling the commitments outlined in its funding proposal to the GCF, specially concerning its Gender Action Plan (GAP)?
- ?

Is the project meeting the needs and expectations of the community and landscape, including identified gender needs, and making efforts to advance gender equality?

Because active involvement and support of a local partner organization were fundamental for completing the fieldwork, we reached out to UNES, an organization in El Salvador focused on environmental and gender justice. The process began in April 2023 and concluded in December 2023, and was based on the following methodology:

- 1

**Desk review of RECLIMA project documentation:** This involved examining the APRs of 2019, 2020 and 2021, as well as the project's Gender Assessment and GAP.
- 2

**Interviews with key stakeholders of the RECLIMA project:** Structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders in order to reconstruct, complement, and deepen the information gathered from the project's documentation.

  - Between July and August 2023, 30 interviews were conducted, both virtually and in person.
  - The selection of interviewees was based on various criteria, including their involvement with RECLIMA and their understanding of socio-environmental processes in the country. Interviewees included representatives from institutions directly involved in RECLIMA's implementation, specifically FAO and FIAES, as well as prominent people in El Salvador representing institutions, collectives and associations that are not directly involved in the project, but that have experience in socio-environmental processes in the country (refer to table 3 for details).
  - The semi-structured interviews covered five sections: background, cross-cutting approaches, and the three components implemented by RECLIMA (resilience in food production and access to water; restoration of degraded ecosystems; and strengthening and scaling environmental policies).
  - The interviews were recorded with the informants' prior consent, so that the testimonies could be used later. Notes were taken in situ.

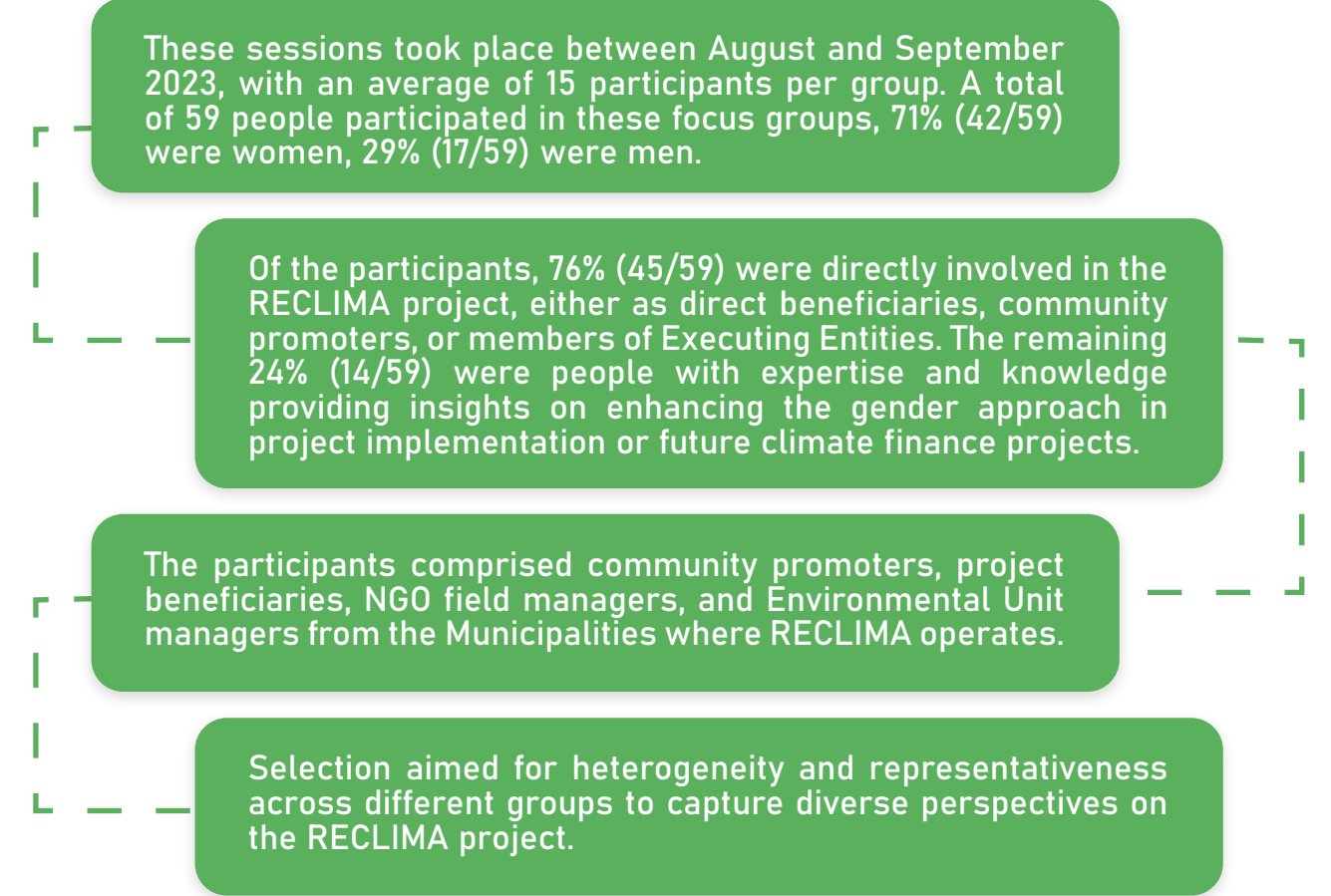
**Table 3:** Interviews by type of organization

| Number of Interviews | Entity                                                                                                                                                                                | Number of participants per interview, disaggregated by gender |     | Number of participants per interview who self-identify as Indigenous |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Women                                                         | Men |                                                                      |
| 1                    | Representatives from FAO, the Accredited Entity                                                                                                                                       | 2                                                             | 1   | -                                                                    |
| 5                    | Representatives from the Executing Entities                                                                                                                                           | 5                                                             | 3   | 1                                                                    |
| 1                    | Representative from the Deputy Attorney for the Defense of Environmental Rights of the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Ombudsman's Office - PDDH). | 1                                                             | -   | -                                                                    |
| 10                   | Community promoters from the Executing Entities <sup>8</sup>                                                                                                                          | 9                                                             | 5   | 1                                                                    |
| 4                    | Representatives from municipal authorities                                                                                                                                            | 2                                                             | 2   | -                                                                    |
| 4                    | Representatives from community collectives and associations that lead socio-environmental processes in the intervened territories (not directly involved with the RECLIMA Project).   | 3                                                             | 1   | 1                                                                    |
| 5                    | Representatives from organizations that operate in the intervened territory (not directly involved with the RECLIMA Project).                                                         | 3                                                             | 2   | -                                                                    |
| 30                   | TOTAL                                                                                                                                                                                 | 25                                                            | 14  | 3                                                                    |

<sup>8</sup> Community promoters —people who receive training in the “escuelas de campo” (farmer field schools) and are then responsible for passing on the learnings to their peers in their communities and assuring they integrate them into their agricultural activities.



**3 Focus groups:** Three focus groups were conducted with community leaders actively engaged in the RECLIMA project. A fourth focus group involved organizations that are engaged in adaptation, climate resilience, and ecosystem restoration projects in the same territories but are not directly involved with the RECLIMA project.



Special efforts were made to actively involve the opinions of women, and trans and non-binary people.

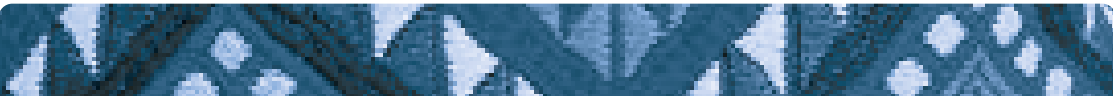
**Table 4:** Focus groups participants, by geographical area and gender

| Focus Groups         | Women     | Men       |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Eastern Zone         |           |           |
| Jiquilisco-Tecapán   | 7         | 8         |
| Río Grande-Goascoran | 8         | 7         |
| Western zone         |           |           |
| Río Paz-Cara Sucia   | 13        | 2         |
| Paracentral zone     |           |           |
| San Salvador         | 14        | -         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>42</b> | <b>17</b> |

**4 Feedback sessions with interviewees and focus group participants:** Three feedback sessions were conducted with the Accredited Entity and representatives from the project implementation areas. The aim of these sessions was to present the initial findings of the participatory monitoring process and gather final reflections and recommendations. A total of 42 women and 9 men participated in these sessions, which were held during January 2024.

The triangulation method was used to compare and verify the information gathered from various data collection exercises, including primary and secondary sources.

Throughout the process, the following methodological limitations were encountered:



# RECLIMA's Participatory Monitoring Methodology

## Two Key Questions:

?

Is the project fulfilling the commitments outlined in its funding proposal to the GCF, specially concerning its Gender Action Plan (GAP)?

?

Is the project meeting the needs and expectations of the community and landscape, including identified gender needs, and making efforts to advance gender equality?



1 Desk review of RECLIMA project documentation



3 Focus groups



Synthesis and analysis



2 Interviews with key stakeholders of the RECLIMA project

2



4 Feedback sessions with interviewees and focus group participants

4



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## VI. Findings

### a. General Perception of the RECLIMA Project

The general consensus regarding the RECLIMA project is positive. RECLIMA is perceived as a significant contribution to strengthening community resilience while generating a tangible impact. Additionally, the initiative has been instrumental in providing digital competencies, enabling effective monitoring of farms, thus enhancing communities' capacity to tackle environmental and climate challenges.

When enquiring about RECLIMA, respondents describe it as a project with an emphasis on climate change adaptation and ecosystem conservation, through the promotion of productive processes, generation of awareness, and strengthening of capacities, with a particular emphasis on empowering women. The initiative is particularly noted for its gender mainstreaming approach.

Participants in RECLIMA view the project as relevant. They consider it an integral part of the initiatives carried out by the Executing Entities in their respective territories. The project's actions, as stated in the consultations, favor the improvement of local livelihoods, and promote the role of women in agricultural and conservation activities.

During the interviews and focus groups, participants shared reflections and ideas for potential project improvements that extend beyond the scope of this participatory monitoring project. Although they will not be considered in the conclusions and recommendations of this report, we are sharing them here. They may offer valuable insights for the Accredited and Executing Entities as they continue to implement RECLIMA:



Ensure transparent reporting on project progress and enhanced citizen access to information, through the following measures:



Publish the APRs for the project in a timely manner, including a Spanish version. Additionally, considering the bureaucratic and untimely nature of the APR process, establish a transparent and accessible reporting system for regular updates on project progress by RECLIMA Executing Entities and for dissemination of updates in the territories.



Utilize diverse communication channels, including social media, newsletters, and community events, to effectively inform the public about RECLIMA. Particular attention should be given to enhancing the program's webpage.



Provide clear information to the public on the process of filing complaints, the subsequent follow-up procedures, and the actions to be taken in response to raised concerns.



Facilitate communication and exchange of experiences online and in-person among Executing Entities implementing different components of the project in various territories.



Organize annual workshops with teams of promoters and groups of beneficiaries to provide information on project's progress.

**Prioritize food sovereignty:** Ensure that project goals and activities adhere to this principle, emphasizing communities' right to determine their own food production systems.

**Incorporate disaster risk management:** Integrate a dedicated disaster risk management approach into the project to enhance the effectiveness of farm plans. This will help mitigate risks and ensure the resilience of food production systems.

# b. Gender in RECLIMA

## Desk-Based Review of RECLIMA'S Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan

The Gender Assessment and GAP of the RECLIMA project were initiated even before the revised GCF Gender Policy mandated them. The GAP for RECLIMA was reviewed and approved by the Secretariat in 2018.

In January 2019, FAO El Salvador published the [Gender Assessment for the RECLIMA project](#), providing an overview of the country and briefly discussing gender disparities, persistent gender stereotypes, the division of labor, and women's participation in the economy. The assessment also examined the circumstances of women and men farmers, gender-specific vulnerabilities to climate change, and their diverse capacities for adaptation.

While this assessment acknowledges El Salvador's legal framework promoting equity and inclusion for structurally marginalized groups (including International Conventions and Agreements signed by El Salvador), it does not analyze how these legal advances translate into public policies. Despite noting that women over 16 years old make up 54% of the workforce-eligible population, only 46.7% of them actually participate in the workforce, the assessment lacked specific details on women's participation in economic sectors or a thorough analysis of the agricultural sector and other relevant areas related to the project's objectives.

The assessment recognizes the widespread presence of gender-based violence, which is considered a central issue to be addressed for the promotion of inclusive development. However, it lacks a detailed analysis of this issue within the context of agriculture, especially its impacts on rural areas where the RECLIMA project operates. Furthermore, the discussion on gender division of labor by gender is broad and does not delve into the specific nuances of El Salvador's context.

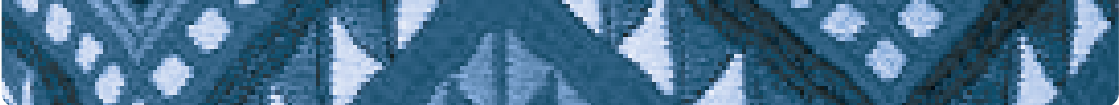


Regarding the analysis of RECLIMA's specific intervention area, there are notable weaknesses, particularly in the general nature of the information provided, lacking specific references to the local context. This becomes apparent when discussing the differing impacts of climate change on men and women, along with the adaptive capacities of historically marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples, youth, and women. Specifically:

- The assessment highlights the intention to guarantee equal participation conditions for beneficiary families, striving for a minimum 35% participation of women in the entire project. However, the data reveals that only 12% of land-owning agricultural producers in El Salvador are women. This underscores the need for affirmative actions to achieve gender equality in land tenure and go beyond solely ensuring equity in participation.
- Although the promotion of women's participation in project governance and monitoring mechanisms is mentioned, it is not specified how mechanisms will be implemented to guarantee this participation. There is also no analysis of women's involvement in decision-making spaces.
- While the knowledge and skills of men in productive processes relevant to the project's objectives are acknowledged, there is no mention or recognition of the equally vital knowledge and skills of women and other vulnerable groups, which are also essential for the project's success in rural areas.
- Despite mentioning the need to shift gender stereotypes and promising women's participation in productive activities and access to technology, there is no mention of specific affirmative strategies to guide this paradigm shift, neither in terms of participation nor resource access in the rural areas prioritized by the project.

RECLIMA's GAP outlines 15 activities aligned with the project's three components, each with specific targets, indicators, timelines, and assigned responsibilities. These activities were developed with the support of experts and include measures such as gender quotas in training processes and ensuring equitable access to resources, as well as representation in local governance structures. Strengthening the capacity of Accredited and Executing Entities is one of the central axes for effective support in the territories.

As part of the desk-based review, RECLIMA's GAP indicators were analyzed. It was observed that most gender indicators for components 1 and 2 ensure sex disaggregation, but primarily in binary terms (men and women). Conversely, in component 3, the majority of indicators are gender-neutral, lacking sex disaggregation and consideration of diverse needs and impacts. Typically quantitative, these indicators provide a general picture on women's involvement in community-level activities. These indicators fall short of capturing the project's potential to influence broader norms, cultural values, behaviors, and unequal power structures, particularly at the policy level.



**Table 5:** Typification of indicators by RECLIMA activities in the Gender Action Plan

| Indicator                                                                                                                                                               | Target                                                                                         | Type of indicator |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| COMPONENT 1                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |                   |
| 1.1.1. Number of farm plans prepared by the beneficiaries of the Project, according to sustainable agriculture models.                                                  | 70,000 small farmers in total (24,500 are women).                                              | Sex-disaggregated |
| 1.1.3. Number of fruit and timber tree species nurseries run by women, young people, and indigenous people.                                                             | 5 nurseries (this activity will be developed by women's, youth, and indigenous organizations). | Gender-sensitive  |
| 1.2.1. Number of technicians trained to carry out productive activities with populations that are vulnerable to climate change.                                         | 1750 community extensionists (35% women)                                                       | Sex-disaggregated |
| 1.2.2. Number of technicians trained in sustainable productive models.                                                                                                  | 60 CENTA technicians<br>37 technicians (35% women)                                             | Sex-disaggregated |
| 1.2.3. Number of beneficiaries trained to promote the implementation of sustainable agriculture models.                                                                 | 1750 community extensionists (35% women)                                                       | Sex-disaggregated |
| 1.2.6. Number of young people trained in the environment and new technologies for sustainable land use.                                                                 | 300 young people (35% female)                                                                  | Sex-disaggregated |
| COMPONENT 2                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |                   |
| 2.1.1. Strengthened climate monitoring center to improve climate data collection and management.                                                                        | 30 technical specialists hired (35% women)<br>200 environmental observers trained (35% women)  | Sex-disaggregated |
| 2.2.4. Number of social organizations and local communities trained in the proper interpretation of climate information.                                                | 225 organizations<br>1750 community extensionists (35% women)                                  | Sex-disaggregated |
| COMPONENT 3                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |                   |
| 3.2.1 Technical assistance to the Legislative Assembly to facilitate discussion forums for decision-making on laws related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. | 5 policies supported                                                                           | Gender-neutral    |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 3.2.2 Technical and institutional support at the ministerial level to facilitate discussion forums for decision-making on laws related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.                                             | 5 policies supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Gender-neutral   |
| 3.2.3 Technical accompaniment at the local/territorial level to facilitate discussion spaces for decision-making on laws related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.                                                   | 5 policies supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Gender-neutral   |
| 3.3.1. Number of government officials (MARN and MAG) and local governments trained to include climate change adaptation measures in their policies and plans, with a specific focus on the agricultural and forestry sectors.   | (85) ADESCOS,<br>(33) Municipal Women's Unit,<br>(31) Environmental Units of the municipalities,<br>(4) Indigenous organizations,<br>(1) Afro-descendant organizations,<br>(15) Cooperatives,<br>(3) Community Civil Protection Commission,<br>(2) Governmental institutions working for women's rights (ISDEMU, Ciudad Mujer),<br>(1) Governmental institutions working for youth rights (INJUVE), (13) Municipalities,<br>(14) Health promoters | Gender-neutral   |
| 3.3.3. Number of beneficiary organizations trained to participate in local planning and decision-making processes.                                                                                                              | 80 organizations (including women's organizations)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Gender-sensitive |
| 3.3.5. Number of municipalities, community organizations and small landowners that participate in the management of rural water supply systems through water management boards.                                                 | 228 water management boards,<br>114 municipal environmental units,<br>114 ADESCOs,<br>456 communities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Gender-neutral   |
| 3.3.6 Inter-institutional framework created and in operation (Technical Steering Committee and Territorial Steering Committee) to develop the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and impacts generated by RETIDER. | 1 functioning Technical Steering Committee<br>1 functioning Territorial Steering Committee<br>1 functioning Project Coordinating Unit<br>2 operational technical units                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Gender-neutral   |

## Ensuring Women's Active Engagement and Participation in the Implementation of the Project

RECLIMA's Gender Assessment and GAP underscore the project's strong emphasis on ensuring the active engagement and participation of women.

Originally, FAO aimed for 52% of project beneficiaries to be women. However, in the initial phase (2019–2022), FAO El Salvador reported that 38% of participants were women. This proportion increased to 41% in the second (current) phase. To further boost women's participation, FAO El Salvador and the Executing Entities have promoted various practices, which were acknowledged by the women who participated in the focus groups and interviews. These include:

- Implementing a “learning by doing” approach for different members of participating family units. Interviewed participants highlighted that this methodology allows for increased knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening, leading to tangible advancements in agricultural processes. In addition, women participants noted that it has strengthened their leadership within established community-based organizations, boosted their self-esteem, and promoted more equitable distribution of agricultural tasks.

“Yo estoy gestionando y tomando las decisiones de mi parcela. Hoy cuido con mayor consciencia, aprendiendo nuevas técnicas [I am managing and making the decisions with regards to my plot. Today I care for it with more awareness, while learning new techniques]” (Anonymous. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August–September 2023).

“Para mí el proyecto está permitiendo que las familias participen en las actividades agrícolas. Es un proyecto que promueve la unión [For me the project facilitates participation of families in agricultural activities. It is a project that promotes unity]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August–September 2023).

- Ensuring flexible schedules for activities conducted with women. According to all representatives of Executing Entities interviewed, they offered flexible schedules for planned activities. This allowed women participants to select time slots that best suited them.

● Intention to incorporate childcare systems based on shared responsibility. During activities, women were given the space to collectively plan and integrate childcare arrangements. In some cases, these efforts were complemented with mobile childcare kits. Although there was space for the planning of these initiatives, funding constraints often hindered their implementation.

“En los talleres se tienen personas voluntarias que apoyan el cuidado de los/as niños/as mientras las beneficiarias participan. No hay fondos. Y sobre los espacios, se tiene claro que existen normas de respeto y buenos tratos en las actividades. [In the workshops we have volunteers who support in the care for the children while the women beneficiaries participate. There are no funds. Regarding spaces, it is clear that there are rules of respect and good treatment in the activities]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August–September 2023).

“En nuestra organización tenemos la flexibilización de los horarios para que participen mujeres. En el proceso de inducción nos dijeron que se tendrían materiales lúdicos para apoyar a los cuidados de los pequeños mientras hay talleres. Todavía no se cuenta con ellos. Se mencionó la posibilidad de pagar a alguien para una guardería, pero no contamos con fondos para destinar. [In our organization, we have flexible schedules so women can participate. In the induction process they said that we would have play materials to support the care of the children during workshops, but we still don't have them. There was mention of paying someone for a daycare center, but we do not have the funds to allocate]” (Anonymous man. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August–September 2023).

- Empowering women by appointing them as field promoters. Currently, 39% of field promoters are women. The initiative has proven beneficial for women, providing them with economic autonomy while strengthening their knowledge on climate-resilient agricultural practices.

“Ser parte de este proceso ha sido un reto. Se aprende y se comparte y replica en otros espacios. Mi trabajo me ha permitido creer en mí y de otra forma cuidar mi entorno. [Being part of this process has been a challenge. We learn and share and replicate in other spaces. My work has allowed me to believe in myself and take care of the environment, in another way.]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August–September 2023).

“Las mujeres estamos teniendo mayor liderazgo, participando como promotoras del proyecto. A nosotras nos han enseñado y lo hemos puesto en práctica de manera consciente y colectiva cuidando y conservando los suelos y bosques. [Women are having greater leadership, participating as promoters of the project. They have taught us, and we have put it into practice, consciously and collectively, caring for and conserving the soils and forests.]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August–September 2023).

“Yo he ganado capacidades y aprendizajes en dar seguimiento a los planes de fincas. Aprendí a usar una App que ayuda a tener más organizada la información y poder compartirla con otros. [I have gained skills and have learned about following up on farm plans. I learned to use an App that helps organize and keep information and share it with others]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. eastern zone. August-September 2023).

Despite the explicit intention to prioritize women's participation, findings from focus groups and interviews reveal that women still face challenges in actively engaging in RECLIMA project activities. Participants expressed ongoing difficulties in finding the necessary space and time due to the multiple responsibilities they shoulder. Balancing domestic tasks, agricultural duties, and the additional responsibility of organizing and mobilizing women in their communities underscores the persistent burden that limits their full participation in various project initiatives.

### Strengthening the Institutionalization of Gender within Accredited and Executing Entities

In addition to ensuring women's participation, the accredited and Executing Entities of the RECLIMA project have shown commitment to strengthening their institutional practices in relation to gender.

“La integración de consideraciones de género se planificó desde el inicio del diseño y la implementación de los mecanismos de coordinación especializados en el proyecto. Es por ello, que se programó la elaboración de documentos, la implementación de formación sobre género y la aplicación de medidas afirmativas que faciliten la construcción de entornos laborales, educativos y sociales más igualitarios. [The integration of gender considerations was planned from the beginning of the design and implementation of the project's specialized coordination mechanisms. For this reason, the preparation of documents, the implementation of gender training and the application of affirmative measures to facilitate the construction of more egalitarian work, educational and social environments were planned.]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August-September 2023).

“En los territorios trabajamos desde el enfoque de gobernanza territorial. Se ejecuta transversalizando el género y las salvaguardas. [In the territories we work from a territorial governance approach, which is executed by ensuring gender and safeguards are transversal.]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August-September 2023).

“Desde la institución nosotras trabajamos con mujeres para empoderar y fortalecer la autonomía económica. Sí, se ha transversalizado en todas las fases del proyecto. Se aportó en salvaguardas y género mediante la formación institucional [From our institution we work with women to empower and strengthen economic autonomy. Yes, it has been transversal in all phases of the project. There was contribution to safeguards and gender through institutional training]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August-September 2023).

One interviewee from FAO El Salvador indicated that they hired three gender specialists to support the work of the RECLIMA project, ensuring the implementation, monitoring and adaptation of the Gender Action Plan with adequate gender expertise. In addition, FAO El Salvador developed technical guidance documents for affirmative actions within project activities and for the use of inclusive language. They also updated their Action Protocol regarding Labor and Sexual Harassment.

“Las responsables cuentan con conocimientos adecuados en materia de género para aplicar y adaptar con solidez el Plan de Acción de Género del FVC. [The managers have adequate gender expertise to implement and adapt the GCF Gender Action Plan in a sound manner.]” (Anonymous woman. Interview. Conducted by Rosalia Soley, Partner Organization UNES. August-September 2023).



Three out of the four Executing Entities interviewed indicated that the RECLIMA project coordination within their organization was led by a woman. However, only two organizations indicated the intentional support for these women to lead in integrating a gender perspective across all implementation stages, as well as institutionally.

In addition, as RECLIMA began implementation, some of the Executing Entities did make and/or improve their technical instruments to strengthen gender equality in their programmatic work. For example, the National Center for Agricultural and Forestry Technology “Enrique Álvarez Córdova” (CENTA) developed an institutional policy on Equality and Non-Discrimination, covering the period 2020–2024. Similarly, the Environmental Investment Fund of El Salvador (FIAES) updated its Protocol of Operation of the Gender Committee in 2021. Likewise, as part of the RECLIMA project, the technical teams of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), CENTA, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), and FIAES underwent modular training on gender, safeguards, and indigenous peoples to strengthen their capacities. This training was also extended to the team of field promoters.

During the focus group discussions and interviews, participants indicated that FAO El Salvador and Executing Entities are leading a coordinated consultation process with community-based organizations to deepen the gender perspective in actions to be developed in phase II.

Notably, new Indigenous and Afrodescendant organizations, including the Consejo de Pueblos Indígenas del municipio de Tacuba (Council of Indigenous People of the Municipality of Tacuba, Pre-Maya), Afrodescendientes Salvadoreños (Salvadoran Afrodescendants, AFROOS), Asociaciones de la Comunidad Indígena Ecológica Kakawira (Kakawira Indigenous Ecological Community Associations, ACEINKA) and the Consejo Indígena Kakawira (Kakawira Indigenous Council, CINKA), have been participating in this process.



Participants also emphasized the significance of integrating a gender perspective into these discussions. This facilitates a more comprehensive understanding of the differentiated vulnerabilities and risks experienced by community members, along with identifying diverse opportunities to mitigate the negative impacts of the climate crisis.

# VII. Recommendations for a Gender-Transformative Climate Project

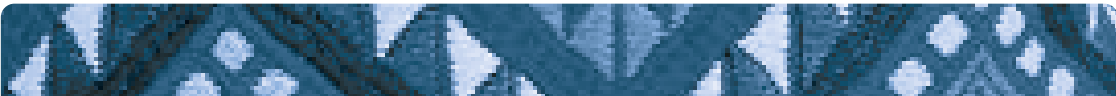
## Results from the Participatory Monitoring Process of FP089 RECLIMA El Salvador.

The findings show the priority placed on gender integration by RECLIMA's accredited and Executing Entities, with actions taken to ensure a gender-sensitive climate project. However, there is room for RECLIMA to evolve into a truly gender-transformative climate project. By strengthening this work across the initiative, it would be better aligned with RECLIMA's intent to ensure a *“paradigm shift in relation to agroecosystem-based climate change adaptation in El Salvador”*.<sup>9</sup> and a *“gender, generational, and ethnic lens and rights-based approach, pivotal to citizen participation, dialogue, coordination, and decision-making within the project”*.<sup>10</sup>

The following recommendations aim to advance these efforts:

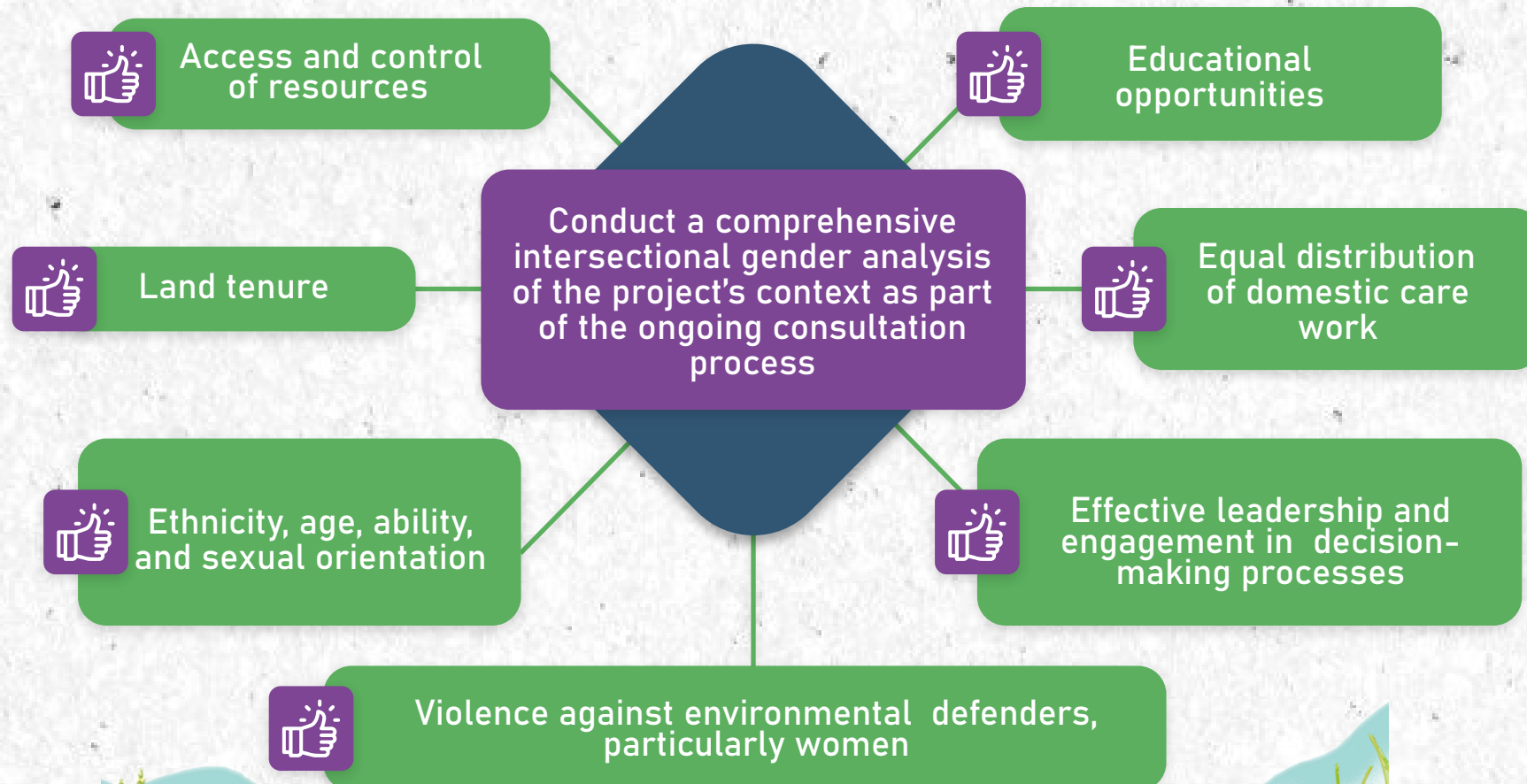
-  **Conduct a comprehensive intersectional gender analysis of the project's context as part of the ongoing consultation process.** This analysis should delve into structural barriers faced by women and other structurally marginalized groups involved in the project. Key areas to focus on include land tenure; access and control of resources; educational opportunities; equal distribution of domestic care work; effective leadership and engagement in decision-making processes; and violence against environmental defenders, particularly women. Furthermore, the analysis should explore how different forms of oppression and inequalities reinforce one another when diverse identities intersect beyond gender, considering factors such as ethnicity, age, ability, and sexual orientation.
-  **Utilize findings from the gender analysis to identify, plan and assign resources aimed at addressing the identified structural barriers.** For example, in the case of RECLIMA, allocate sufficient resources for childcare support to ensure women's participation in project activities. Based on participants' feedback regarding the mobile childcare kits, ensure effective implementation of such initiatives. In addition, establish proactive measures and strategies to achieve this objective and regularly report on progress for accountability purposes, as part of the adaptive management process outlined in the APRs.
-  **Collaborate closely with local feminist organizations that have ties to the environmental and climate justice movements.** These organizations can offer guidance and support in ensuring an exhaustive and context-relevant gender analysis. These organizations can also provide adequate recommendations for designing and implementing these affirmative actions, as well as facilitating the resource allocation process.
-  **Recognize and value the diversity of knowledge, experiences and perspectives of all members in local communities.** It is imperative to move beyond a binary logic (women/men) within the RECLIMA's gender approach. This should extend beyond data collection and analysis to encompass affirmative measures that promote the leadership and participation of diverse non-binary gender identities. Including reporting on gender-diverse identities within the GAP of the APRs would be a first step in this direction.

<sup>9</sup> Refer to page 2 of the RECLIMA Climate Fund Proposal.  
<sup>10</sup> See page 52 of the RECLIMA Climate Fund Proposal.  
\*Proposal available at: <https://greenclimate.fund/document/upscaling-climate-resilience-measures-dry-corridor-agroecosystems-el-salvador-reclima>.



# Recommendations for a gender-transformative climate project

Results from the participatory monitoring process of FP089 RECLIMA El Salvador



Utilize findings from the gender analysis to identify, plan and resource affirmative aimed at addressing the identified structural barriers.



Recognize and value the diversity of knowledge, experiences and perspectives of all members in local communities



Collaborate closely with local feminist organizations that have ties to the environmental and climate justice movements.

# VIII. Conclusions

## Gender Considerations in the Design and Implementation of the Reclima Project Could Be Improved

This participatory monitoring process, collectively led by AIDA, FCAM, Fondo Tierra Viva, IAFN, UNES and WEDO, has provided valuable insights into the implementation of the RECLIMA project in El Salvador. As organizations dedicated to gender and climate justice, our goal was to assess whether the project is fulfilling its commitments outlined in the funding proposal to the GCF, particularly regarding its gender action plan, and whether it is effectively addressing community and landscape needs and expectations, including gender-specific needs and advancing gender equality.

It is evident that gender is a priority in the RECLIMA project and FAO El Salvador, as the Accredited Entity, has taken significant actions to ensure a gender-sensitive climate project. However, based on interviews, focus groups, and analysis conducted through the participatory monitoring process, it is evident that the project's GAP falls short of achieving a gender-transformative impact. The absence of an intersectional gender analysis limits the focus solely to the engagement and participation of women, leading to underfunding of GAP implementation activities. Furthermore, it is difficult to gauge progress on the GAP given the lag in reporting, particularly around the APRs, and minimal available information aligned t with GAP activities.



Moving forward, it is imperative to adapt and improve the implementation of the project's GAP, accompanied by continued monitoring. This includes conducting an intersectional gender analysis to broaden the scope of attention beyond women's participation and addressing reporting delays to facilitate effective progress assessment and accountability.

## Accredited Entities Should Support Participatory Monitoring Processes Facilitated by Local Gender Experts

From this process, two key recommendations for Accredited Entities at any stage of a GCF proposal, from inception to final evaluation, emerged in relation to participatory monitoring. First, this process highlights the imperative for transparent and participatory processes during implementation, recognizing beneficiaries as key sources of information on project implementation. Ensuring the right to information contributes to the right of participation, ultimately improving project implementation and maximizing potential project outcomes.

Secondly, integrating women's rights organizations and gender-diverse groups in assessment, design, implementation and monitoring is an invaluable opportunity, especially if advancing gender equality is a goal, as it should be for all GCF projects and programmes. Leveraging the specific expertise and experiences of local groups ensures that activities are responsive to priorities, needs, and specific intra-household and community dynamics. This engagement contributes to shaping more substantial activities that address the needs of beneficiaries from a more intersectional perspective. Moreover, the engagement of these organizations in ongoing monitoring provides a more comprehensive understanding of implementation progress, providing transparency into activities and their outputs and outcomes within the project area at earlier stages than traditional year-end reporting.

This participatory monitoring process of a GCF-funded project in Latin America has demonstrated the challenges of eliciting broadly applicable insights within multifaceted climate projects. Despite the extensive interviews and focus groups conducted, facilitated by the resources available to the collective of feminist groups dedicated to this pilot, the process underscores the imperative for Accredited Entities, guided by the GCF Secretariat and their respective NDAs, to support and integrate participatory monitoring into their project implementation procedures, as per the monitoring and accountability framework.



It is evident that more adequate guidance and sharing of best practices on participatory monitoring from the GCF Secretariat and NDAs is needed.

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