

The thematic Sector FBE is part of:



Funded by
the European Union

Implementing agencies of FBE:



Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems (FBE)



Since 2019, **9 projects in 12 countries** of Latin America and the Caribbean have strengthened the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems against climate change. As a result, they support climate change adaptation and mitigation, contribute to the generation of green jobs, and address biodiversity loss in the region. In 2021, three projects were extended to provide continuity to ongoing actions.

The Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems (BBE) thematic sector is one of the six sectors of the EUROCLIMA+ programme.

Expertise France EF is responsible for financing and monitoring 9 innovative projects and GIZ is responsible for the Technical Assistance (TA) and strategic capacity building.

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

January 2019 – March 2022



BUDGET
ca. 14 million

BENEFICIARIES

1,503,656

Farmers, local authorities, decision makers, technicians and government officials acquire new capacities for better management of forests, biodiversity and ecosystems of the region.

FBE projects and their locations

- **Mexico and Brazil:** *Coordinating Global Agendas from a Local Approach*
 Main implementing organization: Pronatura
- **Bolivia and Panama:** *Non-Carbon Benefits*
 Main implementing organization: Bosques del Mundo
- **Peru and Bolivia:** *Amazon Rainforests and Climate Change*
 Extension: *Implementing the 'Observatory on Amazon fruits and climate change'*
 Main implementing organization: ACEAA
- **Argentina and Paraguay:** *Participatory Climate Action*
 Main implementing organization: Mingará
- **El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia and Guatemala:** *Forest Value Chains*
 Main implementing organization: ICCO
- **Honduras and Peru:** *Improving Land-Use Governance and Management*
 Main implementing organization: PUR
- **Costa Rica and Peru:** *Water Sowing and Harvesting and Ecosystem Services*
 Extension: *Governance for rainwater harvesting with gender equity and interculturality*
 Main implementing organization: AIDER
- **Guatemala and Honduras:** *Forests, Biodiversity and Community Development*
 Main implementing organization: CISP
- **Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia:** *Living and Producing in the Chaco Forest*
 Extension: *Management of the Chaqueño forest and Climate Change*
 Main implementing organization: INTA



Ecosystems and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

The **9 projects** worked in diverse ecosystems that safeguard biodiversity. They include **terrestrial** ecosystems (Amazonian, tropical rainforests and dry forests), **aquatic** ecosystems (lagoons, rivers and springs), **mixed ecosystems** (wetlands, mangrove, coasts and agro-ecological) and in some cases **artificial** ecosystems (agricultural and livestock).

These ecosystems are crucial for **mitigation** (e.g. carbon dioxide absorption) and **adaptation** (e.g. water cycle regulation) to climate change and they **promote community development**.

In this way, the projects contributed to climate action and the countries' NDC by increasing the resilience of populations and ecosystems through the sustainable management, protection and restoration of forests, mangroves, wetlands and other ecosystems; the incorporation of green/natural infrastructure; and the safeguarding of ecosystem services; among others.



Results of the FBE sector

Contributions of the FBE projects to the NDCs' processes

1,405,053

hectares in protected areas are better protected as a result of the implementation of the FBE projects

6

policy instruments and regulatory/legislative documents (national and subnational) are developed, revised or implemented

49

innovative pilots and initiatives are implemented in the framework of the NDCs

26

sectoral strategies, programmes and plans (national and subnational) are developed, revised or implemented

Strengthening of individual and institutional competencies

109

institutions, organizations and organizational structures are strengthened

2 285

people are trained in processes related to the implementation of the NDCs (1,762 men and 523 women)

3 454

people acquired and apply new knowledge for the sustainable management of forests and other ecosystems (1,984 men and 1,470 women)

Financing, transparency and articulation

12

ideas of new climate financeable projects are developed

21

mechanisms or systems for the monitoring of ecosystems are developed or supported

18

dialogue platforms, structures or articulation mechanisms are created or strengthened

Relevant results of the FBE projects

1 SUPPORT TO CLIMATE ACTION

The project **Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change** promoted the creation of a binational biological corridor in **Honduras and Guatemala** to improve the governance and conservation of the protected areas within the proposed corridor, generate climate action benefits and control illegal species trafficking.



The project **Amazon Rainforests and Climate Change** promoted the sustainable and integrated management of non-timber forest resources, such as açai and Brazil nut. This allows the creation of adaptation processes in Amazonian communities in **Bolivia and Peru**.



The project **Water Sowing and Harvesting** has encouraged the generation of three local public policies and has supported a national decree for the regulation of water sowing and harvesting in **Costa Rica**. The project has also completed the draft of a water fee bill for **Peru**, taking into account the experience and lessons learned in Costa Rica.



The project **Participatory Climate Action** has analyzed vulnerability to climate change in four municipalities in **Argentina** and has studied adaptation plans in five municipalities in **Paraguay**. The generated knowledge was used for proposing solutions on climate change adaptation.

The project **Living and Producing in the Chaco Forest** improved the socio-ecological resilience of the local population in the **Gran Chaco Americano** ecosystem through conservation actions and revaluation of ancient practices.

2 SCALABILITY AND REPLICABILITY OF ACTIONS

Through participatory processes, the results of the project **Water Sowing and Harvesting** have been scaled up resulting in the construction of reservoirs to capture and store rainwater, financed with public and private investment. This makes it possible to provide water resources for different communities in Guanacaste, **Costa Rica**.

The project **Communities, Forests and Biodiversity** project benefited more than 251,866 inhabitants in **El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia and Guatemala**, through the management of community forestry concessions, the strengthening of local businesses and the reforestation and restoration of forests. Additionally, eight successful models of resilient forest management, which generate income for the beneficiaries, were created.



Through the **Coordinating Global Agendas from a Local Approach** project, six municipalities as well as public and private organizations in **Mexico and Brazil**, learned the municipal planning model and incorporate it in their management. This allows them to integrate the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach in articulation with their national and global climate targets

“The project created an opportunity to strengthen local capacities. It contributed to the fulfilment of national and international targets for the adaptation to climate change, it implemented Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) actions through the collective efforts of various stakeholders, and it promoted the sharing of experiences among municipalities and South-South dialogue.”



Alejandra Tenorio
Coordinator of the Coordinating Global Agendas from a Local

3 CAPITALIZATION OF EXPERIENCES AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The **Non-Carbon Benefits** project collaborates proactively with different governmental authorities in **Panama** for the development of a monitoring system (Measurement, Reporting and Verification, MRV) of non-carbon benefits.



Through workshops with local organizations, communities and government representatives in **Honduras and Peru**, the project **Improving Land-Use Governance and Management** has strengthened capacities for the implementation of global forestry initiatives, such as REDD+ (conservation), FLEGT (legal trade) and FLR (restoration).



Technical Assistance and other cross-cutting issues

The TA of the thematic sector FBE advised the projects in the development of professional and institutional capacities, as well as in the promotion of exchange, analysis and capitalization of experiences.

Some key thematic areas in the implementation of the projects were:

1. **Strengthened governance**
2. **Access to climate finance**
3. **Contribution of indigenous peoples to climate action**
4. **Knowledge management and communication**
5. **Nature-based Solutions**
6. **Potential of scaling up and replicability of the FBE projects**
7. **Capacity building**

Actions and progress

1 STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE

The study on **“Governance of Natural Resources: Emerging Lessons on its catalytic role for an efficient implementation of NDCs in Latin America”** was developed.

In cooperation with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the methodology on “Site Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) for protected and conserved areas” was updated and adapted for the Latin America region.

Two FBE projects were involved in the process of adaptation, capacity building, accompaniment and use of the SAGE methodology.

“Honey was collected by our grandparents. They used it as medicine and food. Thanks to the Non-Carbon Benefits project it is no longer necessary to cut the trees to get the honey, and we will protect the bees. Women of Lomerío can also sell the product and bring some resources to our homes.”

*Margarita Chauvé
Traditional Leader of the Indigenous Central
of Communities in Lomerío, Non-Carbon
Benefits project.*



2 ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE

In cooperation with the INCAE Business School, the training course on “Formulation of financeable projects in the FBE sector for the implementation of NDCs in Latin America” was held with the participation of more than 30 representatives of the FBE projects.

As part of the course, the participants structured **12 concept notes** of financeable projects and **5 business plans**, which were presented to experts in private investments.

3 CONTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO CLIMATE ACTION

On the basis of intensive on-site research, a study on the “[Contributions of indigenous peoples to climate action in Latin America: Experiences from the Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Sector](#)” was elaborated.

Several events and virtual sessions were held with the participation of 51 representatives of the FBE projects.

4 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

The FBE projects organized 36 virtual events to present their progress, results and lessons learned. Videos of the events can be found [here](#).

A virtual seminar on opportunities and challenges on [Nature-based Solutions](#) took place in May 2020. The event gathered more than 400 participants.

Three training sessions on the importance of knowledge management were held for 18 project representatives. Additionally, four sessions on how to improve and promote the dissemination of projects were conducted with the participation of 38 project representatives.

5 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Nature-based solutions (NBS) have gained relevance in the field of climate action in recent years. However, there are conceptual gaps that limit a common understanding among policy makers, project implementers and funders on what constitutes robust nature-based solutions for climate action.

The FBE sector seeks to contribute to a common understanding, by identifying and classifying the NbS-focused contributions included in the updated NDCs of countries in Latin American and the Caribbean. The analysis shows that all Latin American countries have incorporated the ecosystems in their updated climate commitments, both in adaptation and mitigation actions. Also, it indicates that they have included the necessary enabling conditions for the implementation of NbS in the region.

The FBE sector elaborated an [infographic](#) on how NbS represent an opportunity to address climate change and COVID-19.

6 POTENTIAL OF SCALING UP AND REPLICABILITY OF THE FBE PROJECTS

Two cross-cutting studies of the FBE projects are currently being conducted under the leadership of Expertise France.

The first one builds up from the concept of “extension”, either by scaling up or by replication, to analyze each of the 9 FBE projects under a list of social, economic, environmental, governance and public policy criteria.

The study highlights the most relevant elements and lessons learned for possible extensions, lists possible funding sources, and makes recommendations addressed to interested stakeholders by cross-cutting themes and by country. The second study analyzes the contribution of the FBE projects to the global and national targets on the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification conventions. This analysis is carried out both at the project and country level.

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CAPACITY BUILDING

The TA of the FBE thematic sector also supported the professional and institutional capacity building for project implementers and beneficiaries, on the management of biodiversity and ecosystems management, as well as on the scaling up of lessons learned and good practices.

Between 2019 and 2021, the following trainings were conducted for the project representatives:

- Formulation of financeable projects in the FBE sector for the implementation of NDCs in Latin America
- Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services (VES)
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)
- Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement
- Knowledge management and systematization of experiences
- Gender mainstreaming
- Environmental Conflict Transformation
- Management of communication and visibility of BBE projects
- Dissemination of experiences in PANORAMA: Solutions for a healthy planet

“The project “Forests, Biodiversity and Community Development” has succeeded in creating a space for dialogue between different stakeholders: at the institutional level, with the communities, the civil society and the private sector. We are talking about environmental protection, the fight against climate change, which is a very complex topic and therefore requires the commitment and effort of all the stakeholders on site”



Alberto Cortezón
Head of Cooperation of the Delegation
of the European Union in Guatemala

Green Solutions

During the Regional Event on **Green Solutions of the EUROCLIMA+ program**, the FBE sector presented **10 green solutions**, which were developed by the FBE projects. The green solutions reflect on the experiences of the stakeholders involved, and highlight their potential to promote the green recovery and to accelerate the implementation and ambition of their countries' NDCs.

The green solutions are also pilots for the systematization of knowledge generated by the projects of the FBE sector, orienting the implementation of projects of other thematic sectors.

EUROCLIMA+ is a programme funded by the European Union and co-financed by the German federal government through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as by the governments of France and Spain through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

The Programme's mission is to reduce the impact of climate change and its effects in 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting mitigation, adaptation, resilience and climate investment. It is implemented according to the “Spirit of Team Europe” under the synergistic work of seven agencies: the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), AFD Group: the French Development Agency (AFD)/ Expertise France (EF), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International and Ibero-America Foundation for Administration and Public Policy (FIIAPP), the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) GmbH, and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

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MORE INFORMATION

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