



GOAL

- Improve the climate resilience of vulnerable small-scale farmers in El Salvador by improving access to water and building capacity in sustainable agricultural measures and practices.
- Restore and reforest degraded ecosystems to protect water sources and stimulate aquifer recharge.

ESTIMATED PROJECT LIFESPAN
5 years

FINANCING

TOTAL: USD 127.7 million
GCF FINANCING: USD 35.8 million grant

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

El Salvador

PARTNERS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

PROJECT LINK

greencclimate.fund/project/fp089

Upscaling climate resilience measures in the dry corridor agroecosystems of El Salvador (RECLIMA)

BACKGROUND

Located in the dry corridor of Central America, El Salvador is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate risks in the world. At present, it is already facing water stress, with the per capita availability of freshwater well below the critical threshold of 1,700 cubic metres per capita per year. Projected increases in the variability of rainfall, temperature, and occurrence of extreme weather events threaten the food and water security of farming communities living on heavily deforested and degraded hilly lands.

This project seeks to restore and reforest degraded ecosystems in order to protect water sources and stimulate aquifer recharge. By improving access to water and building local capacity to manage natural resources sustainably, small-scale farmers will be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will improve the resilience of vulnerable family farmers to climate change through an integrated landscape approach. The project components include: 1) ensure the resilience of family food production systems and access to water through investments and technical assistance, at household level, on 50,000 family farms; 2) restore areas of degraded ecosystems off-farm in order to restore and maintain the services that these areas provide in reducing erosion and promoting the infiltration of rainfall and runoff water, thereby contributing to aquifer recharge and the stabilisation of the water flows on which target households depend for their domestic water supply; and 3) ensure the existence of a favourable enabling policy and governance environment for sustainability and scaling up of adaptation to national level.

By scaling up adaptation measures, the project aims to bring about a paradigm shift in relation to agroecosystem-based climate change adaptation. The current approaches focus narrowly on crop productivity, soil fertility and erosion control, the promotion of non-resilient productive options and the top-down transfer of static technological packages. Under this pathway and with climate change impacts, the livelihoods and food security of farm families will be threatened. Thus, the project interventions aim to shift behaviors and practices to a sustainable pathway focusing on agroecosystem-based adaptation, productive, livelihood and structural diversification, farmer-led technology development and knowledge management, community-based landscape governance ecosystem restoration and provision of increased services and information-led approaches to adaptation.

GCF'S UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE ROLE

GCF grant resources of USD 35.8 million will invest in innovative agroecosystem models and practices for resilient landscape management, sustainable production and improved environmental governance. The GCF funding crowds-in public financing and mobilises farm-level investments by catalysing investments from the Government of El Salvador and other sources in climate resilient agricultural measures and landscape management in the form of co-financing.

As the Accredited Entity and GCF's implementing partner, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is responsible for quality assurance and overall project oversight and collaborates with El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), and Fund of the Initiative of the Americas (FIAS) as co-executing agencies in the execution of the project activities.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

The project is framed to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals set out in El Salvador's National Climate Change Strategy and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and also contributes to the achievement of the country's sustainable development goals.

By promoting best practices to enable a transformative impact for family farmers through an innovative agroecosystem landscape management approach, the project is expected to: 1) directly benefit a total of approximately 225,000 people in 50,000 family farms (at least 52 percent are women); 2) increase the resilience of agricultural production systems over 56,600 hectares on these farms; and 3) restore 17,333 hectares of degraded ecosystems of importance for the provision of environmental services - this will benefit the target population of 225,000 people and also, indirectly, about 1 million people living in and downstream of the target municipalities through improved flows of environmental services. In addition, the project is expected to sequester 4.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (cumulative). This is the first project in El Salvador to invest directly in actions promoting carbon capture in soil and biomass.

Finally, the project will strengthen institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development – through enhancing the capacity of territorial governance structures, improving institutional coordination, and harmonising policies and regulations to promote climate change mainstreaming. This will contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for society and national institutions to implement processes and action to address climate change.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the world's largest dedicated climate fund. GCF's mandate is to foster a paradigm shift towards low emission, climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries. GCF has a portfolio of USD 10 billion (USD 37.2 billion including co-financing) delivering transformative climate action in more than 100 countries. It also has a readiness support programme that builds capacity and helps countries develop long-term plans to fight climate change. GCF is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and serves the 2015 Paris Agreement, supporting the goal of keeping average global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius.