

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title

Sustainable Transformation of Agriculture in Uruguay

Region

Latin America and the Caribbean

GEF Project ID

11918

Country(ies)

Uruguay

Type of Project

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

FAO

GEF Agency Project ID

756253

Project Executing Entity(s)

National Development Agency ANDE

Project Executing Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

3/6/2026

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

36

GEF Project Grant: (a)

863,242.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

82,008.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

945,250.00

Total Co-financing

6,896,792.00

PPG Amount: (e)

50,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

4,750.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

1,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Large corporations, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Consultation, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Behavior change, Communications, Awareness Raising, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change, Focal Areas

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Over the past two decades, Uruguay has consolidated its position as a significant global food producer in per capita terms. The agricultural sector contributes more than 7 percent of national GDP and generates export revenues exceeding USD 2.4 billion. This performance reflects a context of sustained production intensification, driven primarily by soybean cultivation, the expansion of rapeseed, and the growth of barley production, which reached 2.2 million hectares during the 2022–2023 agricultural season.

However, the environmental challenge associated with agriculture in Uruguay lies in the structural tension between a highly efficient, export-oriented production model based on intensified land use, and the need to conserve the natural resource base, including soils, biodiversity, and agroecosystem landscapes, in line with Uruguay's voluntary commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the 2030 Agenda.

The project is grounded in the need to reorient Uruguay's agricultural system (excluding the livestock sector) toward a transition pathway that integrates environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability across institutional and territorial levels. Sustainability is understood not as a fixed end state, but as a dynamic process requiring progressive shifts in production paradigms, governance frameworks, and land-use practices to consolidate development trajectories compatible with ecosystem conservation and agroecosystem resilience.

The project objective is to catalyze the transition of Uruguay's agricultural system toward more sustainable, biodiversity-positive and climate-resilient production systems, consistent with GEF-8 priorities on land degradation, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the generation of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs).

The intervention is structured around three complementary components. Component 1 strengthens institutional capacities within the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) and the Ministry of Environment (MA) through the development of a National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, enhancement

of environmental and production information systems, and the design of financial mechanisms to scale sustainable practices. It will also consolidate governance and knowledge architecture that promotes multi-stakeholder dialogue, capacity development and informed innovation uptake. Component 2 supports the adoption and territorial scaling of sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices in the Uruguayan Agricultural Littoral (Colonia, Soriano, Río Negro and Paysandú). It will validate and scale regenerative and sustainable land management practices focused on soil health, soil organic carbon conservation, biodiversity enhancement, and climate resilience, applying gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches. Component 3 focuses on knowledge management to sustain long-term stakeholder engagement, promote learning processes, and enable the scaling of sustainable agricultural transformation pathways.

The project is expected to generate the following Global Environmental Benefits: restoration of 5,000 hectares of agricultural land (GEF Core Indicator 3.1); 11,000 hectares of productive landscapes under Sustainable Land Management (GEF Core Indicator 4.3); mitigation of -1,068,556 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GEF Core Indicator 6); and more than 3,180 direct beneficiaries trained or capacitated in sustainable agricultural transformation (GEF Core Indicator 11). Additional co-benefits include enhanced aquifer recharge, increased carbon sequestration, reduced agrochemical use, improved soil health, strengthened climate resilience, and positive micro- and macroeconomic impacts contributing to national and global food security.

The project is catalytic in enabling policy alignment, financial mobilization and scaling mechanisms, and transformative in institutionalizing productive, environmental integration under a systemic approach, thereby contributing to sustainable Global Environmental Benefits within the framework of the GEF Integrated Program on Food Systems.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To achieve the transition of Uruguay's agricultural system toward sustainable, biodiversity-positive and climate-resilient production systems.

Project Components

Component 1: Institutional and governance to lead the sustainable transition of agriculture.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
122,326.00	2,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Institutional capacities of MGAP and MA strengthened to lead the transition toward sustainable agricultural production paradigms, integrating environmental, economic and social sustainability, market alignment and climate resilience, under a gender responsive approach.

Measured by:

Project indicator No. 1 Number of public policy instruments for the transition to sustainable agriculture, approved.

Project Indicator No. 2: Number of institutions that have improved capacities for monitoring and monitoring indicators for sustainable transition in agriculture.

Outcome 1.2 Governance strengthened to advance the transition toward sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, under a gender responsive approach.

Measured by:

Project Indicator No. 3 Number of strategic decisions on sustainable agriculture taken jointly by MA and MGAP through the inter-agency mechanism.

Project Indicator No. 4: Number of agreements reached through dialogue spaces to promote the transition to sustainable agriculture, including measures with a gender approach

Output:

Output.1.1.1. Comprehensive diagnostic assessment of the status of the agricultural production system in relation to the sustainable and climate resilient transition, under a gender responsive approach.

Output 1.1.2 Proposal for a National Strategy for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agriculture formulated, with a gender responsive approach.

Output 1.1.3. Information systems strengthened within MGAP and MA for the management, monitoring and analysis of sustainable agriculture indicators and practices, under a gender responsive approach.

Output 1.1.4 Resource mobilization mechanisms designed for scaling up sustainable and resilient agriculture, under a gender responsive approach.

Output 1.2.1 Formal interinstitutional coordination mechanism between MA and MGAP established and operational to integrate and align environmental and productive policies in support of accelerating the sustainable transition.

Output 1.2.2 Existing dialogue platforms strengthened to support a participatory transition toward sustainable agriculture, under a gender responsive approach.

Component 2: Territories and landscapes managed under a sustainable agricultural transition approach.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
501,826.00	3,450,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1 Increased adoption and scaling of sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices in productive landscapes, with a gender approach.

Measured by:

(GEF Core Indicator No. 4) Number of hectares of productive landscapes under sustainable management implemented, as an effect of the replication of the National Strategy for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture.

(GEF Core Indicator No. 3) Number of hectares of agricultural land under restoration practices.

(GEF Core Indicator No. 11) Number of people benefiting from sustainable land management processes.

(GEF Core Indicator No. 6) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO₂e)

Output:

Output 2.1.1 Systematic survey and characterization of sustainable agricultural practices, based on innovation and co-innovation processes, developed by agricultural research and academic entities, and implemented in productive farms, with gender sensitivity.

Output 2.1.2 Baseline data and performance indicators established in pilot sites to monitor and evaluate progress toward the transition to sustainable agriculture.

Output 2.1.3 Agricultural practices validated in family and commercial farms through cost benefit analysis, incorporating a gender responsive approach.

Output 2.1.4 Technical assistance provided to scale sustainable agriculture approaches at landscape level, incorporating a gender responsive approach

Component 3. Knowledge management and learning for engagement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
121,526.00	513,876.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1 Improved stakeholder engagement for the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture, with a gender perspective.

Measured by:

Project Indicator No. 5: Number of public institutions that formally and sustainably co-lead the dialogue for the transition to sustainable agriculture.

Project Indicator No. 6: Number of entities that include in their work plans actions that promote the adoption of practices validated by the project for the sustainability of agriculture.

(GEF Core Indicator No 11) Number of women accessing knowledge and information.

Output:

Output 3.1.1 Training plan designed and implemented on sustainable agriculture aimed at stakeholders (territorial actors and private actors), with a gender responsive approach.

Output 3.1.2 Knowledge management and dissemination strategy developed in support of extension mechanisms, incorporating a gender responsive approach.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
41,050.00	295,694.00

Outcome:

An effective process for monitoring and adapting the project has been established.

Output:

Project monitoring and learning plan implemented.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Institutional and governance to lead the sustainable transition of agriculture.	122,326.00	2,000,000.00
Component 2: Territories and landscapes managed under a sustainable agricultural transition approach.	501,826.00	3,450,000.00
Component 3. Knowledge management and learning for engagement	121,526.00	513,876.00
M&E	41,050.00	295,694.00

Subtotal	786,728.00	6,259,570.00
Project Management Cost	76,514.00	637,222.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	863,242.00	6,896,792.00

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Conceptual framework on agricultural sustainability

Socioeconomic and production context

1. Sustainable Agriculture is widely understood as “the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations. Such development in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, does not degrade the environment, is technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable” (FAO, 1989)[1]¹. This FAO concept does not constitute a legal definition, but rather an operational one, which has been commonly accepted, in whole or in part, by United Nations conventions and within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. In this sense, sustainability integrates the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Therefore, sustainable agriculture should be beneficial for the economy, positive for the wellbeing of people and society, and environmentally sound and respectful of nature. In this latter dimension, environmental sustainability internalizes the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), namely biodiversity conservation; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in terms of avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation; and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the purpose of generating Global Environmental Benefits, including agroecosystem services.
3. Agriculture globally has direct impacts on biodiversity loss, ecosystems and soils, and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, the importance of the sector in addressing the emissions challenge is recognized through a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures (GEF, 2022[2]², UN - COP26 -Glasgow[3]³, FAO, 2025). In Uruguay, the agricultural sector plays a crucial role in the national economy. With more than 90 percent of its territory suitable for agricultural and livestock activities, Uruguay stands out as a reliable global provider of food and agricultural products.
4. The agricultural sector of Uruguay represents close to 7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and expands its contribution to between 14 percent and 16 percent if the agro-industrial sector is considered. In macroeconomic terms, exports of agricultural goods represented close to 2,415 million United States dollars in 2021 and generated more than 210 thousand direct jobs (Uruguay XXI, 2022)[4]⁴. The total planted area, which includes both winter and summer crops, reached 2,245,000 hectares in the 2022 to 2023 agricultural season, representing an increase of 14 percent compared to the previous season. This increase was mainly due to the expansion of rapeseed and carinata, which occupied 348,000 hectares in the 2022 to 2023 period, while in the previous period they accounted for 162,000 hectares. Malting barley reached 211,000 hectares sown in the 2022 to 2023 season (MGAP, 2023[5]⁵; Uruguay XXI, 2024[6]⁶). This increase in cultivated areas was based on the intensification of rotation practices, including double cropping and the conversion of pastures to no till integrated crop and livestock systems (ICLS), and expansion into new areas (De Faccio Carvalho et al., 2021). However, the decline in international grain prices, together with soil degradation in poorly designed rotation systems and soil use and management regulations, stabilized the cultivated area and favored the expansion of ICLS over the last five years (De Faccio Carvalho et al., 2021).
5. This increase in productivity in the agricultural sector can be understood as the result of growing global demand for food, favorable commodity prices, fiscal incentives and effective public policies that have enhanced productivity. In addition, an institutional framework oriented towards innovation has enabled the agricultural community to adapt and strengthen its competitiveness (INIA, 2016)[7]⁷. Between 2015 and 2020, Uruguay articulated a vision of agricultural development based on sustainable productive intensification[8]⁸ and has undertaken efforts to align the institutional vision with a social, economic and environmental

sustainability approach, as reflected in the National Strategy for Agricultural Development (SENDA) and in the alignment with voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and the Biodiversity Strategy.

6. The adoption of technological innovations in production processes has played a key role, contributing to increased productivity in the sector, including improvements in species genetics, incorporation of specialized machinery, widespread adoption of no till practices, expanded use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), improvements in logistics, and agronomic research developed by the broader agricultural institutional framework. The investment process undertaken, together with the adoption of new business management models and diverse technological innovations, consolidated a phase of sustained growth (Ackermann et al., 2018)^[9]⁹. The National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA), established in 1989, has been a key driver of agricultural development in Uruguay, with highly profitable investment in research, development and innovation (RDI), generating a broad and significant impact with positive effects on productivity, eco efficiency, economic profitability and value creation (Fagro, 2025)^[10]¹⁰.

7. Despite the positive results achieved in terms of productivity and competitiveness as a result of clearly planned agricultural development, new challenges have emerged for the sector: i) ensuring sustainable agriculture that maintains and even increases productivity in the long term; ii) meeting sustainability conditions and market driven demands; and iii) strengthening the resilience of the agricultural system to the effects of climate change.

8. Nevertheless, Uruguay faces the challenge of maintaining productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector while minimizing the impact of agriculture on natural resources and, consequently, adapting to the effects of climate change. To maintain this balance between production, economic development and environmental sustainability, the Government of Uruguay has identified the need to advance towards a gradual transformation of the agricultural system into one that is sustainable, biodiverse and resilient, strengthening the institutional strategic vision of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.

Key environmental indicators for sustainable agricultural transformation measured under the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (PNADS)

9. Within the framework of the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (PNADS), the Ministry of Environment measures a set of variables linked to environmental criteria in productive policies and to strengthening territorial environmental management. In coherence with international commitments such as the UNFCCC, the UNCCD and the CBD, the country has developed policies and instruments aimed at mitigating land degradation, conserving biodiversity and adapting the agrifood system to climate change. The State of the Environment Report outlines a set of indicators indicating that, while Uruguay has made progress in the design and implementation of environmental and agricultural public policies, structural pressures remain on land, soils and biodiversity, as well as on the quality of surface and groundwater within agricultural livestock basins. The country is currently at a strategic juncture for scaling up sustainable solutions grounded in agroecology, sustainable soil management and the restoration of productive ecosystems, with the objective of strengthening climate resilience, enhancing sustainable productivity and ensuring compliance with its international commitments. The State of the Environment Report (2020-2022)^[11]¹¹ presents a detailed account of the variables and indicators related to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity, as follows:

Land cover and land use: In 2020, natural grasslands covered 56 percent of the national territory; however, this coverage has declined by 12 percent since 2000 due to the expansion of agricultural and forestry systems. Mixed agricultural livestock areas increased by 15 percent, while commercial forest plantations expanded by

175 percent, representing 7.2 percent of the country. Intensive agricultural production reached its peak in 2013 to 2014 with 1.53 million hectares, and although the total area stabilized thereafter, cropping intensity increased to 1.49 crops per hectare in 2022.

Soil erosion: Accelerated erosion driven by human activities represents one of the principal forms of land degradation. Through the Soil Use and Management Plans (PUMRS), mandatory since 2013 for farms with 50 hectares or more under cultivation, erosion has been mitigated to tolerable levels. In 2022, 21,844 plans were submitted, covering 1,769,496 hectares. Without these plans, soil losses are estimated to have doubled between 2016 and 2022. The PUMRS apply a model known as USLE RUSLE, Universal Soil Loss Equation, which estimates annual soil loss expressed in tons per hectare per year associated with agricultural activities. This model was validated under Uruguay's conditions and has undergone several recent updates (García Prechac et al., 1998; García Prechac, 2009; Pérez Bidegain et al., 2017; García Prechac et al., 2018; García Prechac, 2020).^[12]¹² ^[13]¹³

Soil health: In 2022, an inter institutional working group led by the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with MGAP, INIA and national universities, was established with the objective of defining an operational concept of soil health, identifying physical, chemical and biological indicators, and developing a national georeferenced database for monitoring priority areas.

Biodiversity and ecosystems: Uruguay encompasses part of the temperate grasslands of the Río de la Plata, considered one of the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems in the world. These grasslands play a fundamental role in the provision of ecosystem services and habitats for endemic species. The National Biodiversity Strategy (ENB) identifies land use change, habitat fragmentation and loss of plant diversity as the principal threats. These processes require urgent responses that integrate production with conservation.

Interlinkages between soil health, organic carbon, productivity and biological activity within Uruguay's agricultural systems

10. Soil health constitutes an integrative indicator of agroecosystem sustainability, understood as the capacity of soil to function as a living system that sustains biological productivity, maintains environmental quality and promotes the health of plants, animals and people (Larkin, 2015; USDA NRCS, 2020). According to Cerecetto et al. (2021)^[14]¹⁴, conventional agricultural practices based on intensive tillage, monocropping and high external inputs degrade soil structure and microbiota, reducing soil organic carbon (SOC), porosity and aggregate stability. This loss of soil organic carbon (SOC) represents the principal underlying process of soil degradation and directly affects fertility, water retention and the capacity of soil to sustain biological activity.

11. Rubio et al. (2025)^[15]¹⁵ demonstrate that variations in soil organic carbon generated by different crop rotations in Uruguay are significantly associated with wheat and barley yields. A decline in soil organic carbon, even above thresholds of 2 percent, implies losses in productivity and resilience to climate variability. Furthermore, Rubio et al. (2025) emphasize that aboveground biomass inputs derived from cover crops, diversified rotations and organic amendments explain up to 50 percent of the observed variations in the physical and biological soil health indices.

12. The maintenance of active and diverse microbial communities, particularly bacteria and archaea in the ~~rhizosphere~~, is fundamental for nutrient recycling, carbon sequestration and pathogen suppression (Kibblewhite, Ritz and Swift, 2008^[16]¹⁶; Fierer, 2017^[17]¹⁷; Armbruster et al., 2020^[18]¹⁸). Practices such as reduced tillage, integration of organic amendments and increased plant biomass restore soil biological functionality, strengthening carbon and nutrient cycles. Collectively, these authors confirm that sustainable

agricultural productivity depends on the integrated management of organic carbon soil, microbial biodiversity and soil conservation practices.

13. Uruguay has developed a solid trajectory in the design and implementation of public policy instruments oriented toward productive intensification, which has driven improvements in productivity and competitiveness. However, the challenge remains to ensure that this growth is compatible with the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the agricultural sector. In this context, the country has established enabling institutional frameworks, promoted multistakeholder dialogue, and advanced scientific research and technological development related to the sustainable use of soil, water and biodiversity^[19]¹⁹.

14. In response to the requirements of certain international markets, such as the European Union, as well as to the country's commitments under multilateral environmental agreements, including the UNCBD, the UNCCD and the UNFCCC, Uruguay has intensified efforts to transition toward sustainable agricultural systems. These advances include the establishment of the Agroecological Transitions Committee, the adoption of agroecological transition-based approaches, and the consolidation of technical capacities within institutions such as the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), INIA and public universities.

15. An important measure in Uruguay's efforts toward sustainable soil management has been the implementation of the Soil Use and Responsible Management Plans (PUMRS), which by 2025 covered 95 percent of the agricultural area, contributing to erosion reduction, conservation of organic matter and improved productivity. A significant advancement in environmental legislation is the recent Decree No. 228/025 on the Declaration of Wetlands of Environmental Importance in Uruguay, which facilitates the conservation of these ecosystems and strengthens the sustainable management of productive landscapes.

16. Bernaschina and Leoni (2025)^[20]²⁰, within the framework of the Agroecological Transitions Committee, specifically in the Intensive Plant Systems working group, developed a consensual compendium of agronomic practices organized into thematic families aimed at facilitating transitions toward more resilient, diversified and sustainable systems in the horticultural sector and in combined production systems. The practices are grouped according to their focus of intervention and transformative objective as follows:

Farm infrastructure and management: Includes farm level planning, water and waste management, and the recording of productive activities to enable more informed management.

Design of agroecological infrastructures: Promotes biodiverse habitats that provide multiple ecosystem services.

Promotion of agrobiodiversity: Encourages productive diversification and strengthens agroecosystem resilience.

~~Soil health:~~ **Soil health:** Prioritizes practices that restore and maintain soil functionality.

Reduction in the use of agrochemicals: Encourages practices that reduce dependence on external inputs and enhance ecological pest control.

17. Simultaneously, family farmers, and medium and large-scale producers organizations (FFMLO), civil society organizations and private sector entities across different agricultural value chains are implementing sustainable practices that contribute to reducing land degradation and conserving biodiversity.

18. Family farming^[21]²¹ (encompassing smallholder producers and traditional production systems) is recognized as a central stakeholder group in enabling the transition toward sustainable agri-food systems in Uruguay. National evidence indicates that a significant share of productive units, particularly within horticultural and agroecological systems, operate under family-based production schemes. These systems are characterized by high labor intensity, substantial participation of women, and strong linkages between production, territory and livelihoods.

19. Family farming systems integrate traditional knowledge and practices, including crop diversification, conservation of local seed varieties, integrated soil management (e.g. crop rotations, cover cropping, and the use of organic amendments), and the incorporation of on-farm conservation areas. Such practices generate multiple global environmental benefits, contributing to biodiversity conservation, enhanced climate resilience, and the long-term sustainability of agroecosystems, while strengthening the productive and commercial autonomy of family farmers (Gómez Perazzoli et al., 2024) ^[22]²². According to the National Registry of Family Farming, as of 2024, a total of 28,377 individuals were registered as family farmers, corresponding to 16,321 productive units.

20. During the inception workshop for the formulation of the present project, participating organizations identified at least 16 methodologies, 14 concrete sustainable practices, and 18 enabling inputs related to public policies, governance and institutional actors that strengthen soil conservation and biodiversity protection.

21. The challenge for Uruguay lies in what the GEF (2022) anticipates, namely that in order to transform food systems, sustainable practices must shift from being marginal to being implemented at scale. These practices must be grounded in the principle of enhancing crop diversity and integration, while linking spatial dimensions, landscapes, with vertical dimensions related to demand. (Jeffries, 2019)^[23]²³.

22. This project concept has been prioritized by the Government of Uruguay due to its comprehensive approach and its capacity to engage key stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, civil society, academia and local actors.

Environmental Problem and Justification

23. The environmental problem associated with agriculture in Uruguay can be understood as the tension between a highly efficient and export oriented production model, based on the intensification of land use, and the need to conserve the natural resource base, including soils, biodiversity and agroecosystem landscapes, within the framework of the country's commitments under the UNCBD, the UNCCD, the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda. The State of the Environment Report (2020 to 2022) confirms that, although Uruguay has consolidated regulatory frameworks and technical capacities for sustainable management, the current land use structure and the dynamics of productive systems continue to generate significant pressures on agricultural soils, natural ecosystems and the configuration of productive landscapes. These pressures are ~~recognized as structural risks~~ inherent to an intensive system undergoing further intensification and requiring adjustments at the level of its governance.

24. In terms of soil and land degradation, evidence indicates a sustained expansion of agricultural crops over recent decades. Historically, water erosion has been identified as the principal environmental problem associated with agriculture, which led to the establishment of the Soil Use and Responsible Management Plans (PUMRS). Although these instruments now cover nearly all rainfed agriculture and have contributed to reducing soil losses, the State of the Environment Report itself indicates that a significant area of land remains classified as degraded, as a result of historical processes of intensive tillage, simplified rotations, conversion of permanent pastures and inadequate management of fertilization and grazing.

25. In association with this, indicators of soil organic carbon and degraded land show that a significant portion of the agricultural and livestock area has experienced a reduction in carbon stocks, compromising its function as a carbon dioxide (CO₂) sink and reducing the resilience of production systems to climate variability. The State of the Environment Report of the Ministry of Environment (2020-2022)^[24]²⁴ indicates that, as a result of the implementation of the PUMRS, CO₂ emissions are avoided and, in the case of conservation management practices, such as rotations with multi annual pastures, soil organic carbon stocks increase. However, it also identifies areas where carbon loss and other soil health attributes persist or have not yet been reversed. From the perspective of GEF 8 and the UNCCD, this reflects a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) scenario that has not yet been achieved, characterized by mosaics in which stable or recovering lands coexist with others that continue along trajectories of physical, chemical and biological degradation.

26. In terms of biodiversity and ecosystems, Uruguay is characterized by a high proportion of natural grasslands, wetlands and native forests, which play a critical role in species conservation and in the maintenance of ecosystem services, including water regulation, pollination, biological control and carbon storage, among others. The State of the Environment Report (2020 to 2022) documents the evolution of the area of natural ecosystems, including natural grasslands, wetlands, native forests and water bodies, and shows a long-term trend in which these ecosystems have experienced a relative loss of area due to agricultural and forestry expansion, particularly since the mid-1980s.

27. In this context, agriculture constitutes a central driver of the simplification of productive landscapes. Agricultural intensification, characterized by input intensive crop sequences, spatial concentration of monocultures and the reduction of semi natural elements such as riparian strips, vegetation corridors, patches of native forest, hedgerows and grassland remnants, generates more homogeneous and functionally simplified landscapes. This territorial reorganization affects ecological connectivity, native species populations and the capacity of landscapes to sustain ecosystem services of regulation and support, which is a key aspect for the GEF focal area objectives in biodiversity and sustainable land use.

28. Based on the above, the environmental problem associated with agriculture in Uruguay is not limited to isolated degradation processes but rather constitutes a systemic transition challenge: reversing and preventing soil degradation, conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems within highly modified productive landscapes, and maintaining sector competitiveness under increasing environmental sustainability requirements. This implies shifting from a model of intensification primarily oriented toward physical and economic yields to pathways of sustainable intensification and sustainable food systems, in line with the GEF 8 approach: agricultural landscapes that are nature positive, contribute to land degradation neutrality,

maintain or increase carbon sequestration and ensure biodiversity conservation, while sustaining livelihoods, contributing to national economic growth and responding to international market demands.

29. At the same time, it is recognized that the country has made important progress in the transition toward sustainability, although there is not yet an officially adopted definition of the concept by the Government of Uruguay, and that along this pathway strengths have been identified, including institutional capacities, public policy frameworks, scientific research, technology generation and good practices, co innovation and methodological design, which facilitate progress toward an optimal state of sustainability and a virtuous cycle in which social wellbeing is balanced with ecosystem stability and, consequently, with the provision of agroecological ecosystem services of regulation, support, cultural value and provisioning. The challenge for Uruguay lies primarily in identifying, valuing and scaling sustainable solutions, including agroecological transitions, validated and documented by MGAP, INIA and universities. It is also recognized that the private sector and civil society organizations have demonstrated capacity in the co innovation of technologies and sustainable solutions, including practices that generate positive impacts on soil conservation, biodiversity and agroecosystems.

30. Finally, the Agricultural Littoral region, comprising Colonia, Soriano, Río Negro and Paysandú, constitutes the principal hub of mechanized extensive agriculture in the country, characterized by soybean, maize and wheat rotations and a high degree of specialization in commodity production. Agricultural coverage exceeds 60 percent in some departments, reflecting sustained productive intensification. This dynamic has led to landscape homogenization, reduction of natural habitats and pressure on soil organic carbon and ecosystem services. The interaction between soil susceptibility and intensification increases the risks of degradation, biodiversity loss and impacts on watersheds. This territory has been selected due to its strategic productive relevance and its high potential to demonstrate scalable agroecological transitions.

Challenges and Required Paradigm Shifts for Sustainable Agriculture

31. Based on the findings of the project inception workshop, conducted by MGAP, the Ministry of Environment and FAO together with the main stakeholders involved in Uruguayan agriculture, as well as on interviews with key informants from INIA, DGRN and other relevant institutions, several challenges and critical factors influencing progress toward agricultural sustainability were identified.

32. The transition toward sustainable agriculture in Uruguay faces a set of structural and paradigm related challenges that extend beyond the technical and production domains, encompassing institutional, economic and sociocultural dimensions. Among the principal bottlenecks identified is the limited capacity for productive planning and environmental risk management among family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers, which reinforces the role of technical assistance as a strategic instrument for the effective adoption of sustainable practices^[25]²⁵. Productive segmentation among large, medium and family farming producers requires a differentiated approach to technical and financial support, with technology packages and good practice frameworks adapted by scale, ensuring equity in access to benefits and long-term environmental sustainability.

33. The land leasing model emerges as a key area for the introduction of institutional innovation mechanisms. Promoting changes that mobilize the willingness of both parties, the landowner and the tenant, to incorporate actions such as soil conservation, sustainable management and crop rotation within leasing contracts can transform this instrument into a vector for sustainability and the regeneration of natural capital. In parallel, the limited demand for environmental certifications in export markets, particularly toward China, reduces economic incentives for the adoption of sustainable standards.

34. At the productive level, the implementation of mixed crop and livestock models emerges as an opportunity and as a paradigm of integrated management capable of restoring soil fertility, closing nutrient cycles and diversifying income streams. This synergistic approach is complemented by practices such as farm level design, cover crops, diversified rotations, erosion control and green bridges, which enhance ecological flows, reduce carbon losses and strengthen the resilience of agroecosystems.

35. From the perspective of ecosystem sustainability, the adoption of these practices depends on three critical enabling conditions: effective economic incentives, coherent regulatory frameworks and institutional recognition of ecosystem services^[26]. Sustainability, therefore, is not limited to a technical dimension, but constitutes a political and social construct. The harmonization of incentive related regulations, the participation of territorial stakeholders and the strengthening of political commitment to the conservation of agroecological landscapes are essential elements for sustaining the transition. Instruments such as the Soil Use and Management Plans (PUMRS) provide an operational framework to consolidate this territorial governance and ensure the effective implementation of conservation policies.

36. At the same time, the country faces emerging challenges related to soil acidification and the loss of soil organic carbon. In response, circular economy solutions are being promoted, including the use of compost and industrial residues derived from the agro-industrial and forestry pulp industries, integrating the concept of nutrient recycling as a mitigation and restoration strategy, as well as the identification of additional integrated solutions to be developed under the project. To date, specific problems have been addressed through targeted interventions that do not incorporate this integrative approach to production systems and living soils. For example, to address erosion, no till practices are promoted; to control acidification, liming is encouraged. In this regard, there is a need to address the problem through comprehensive solutions that tackle underlying causes rather than focusing solely on symptoms.

37. The transition toward sustainable agriculture in Uruguay therefore requires a paradigm shift that combines technological innovation, institutional coherence and cultural transformation, articulating incentives, regulation and local knowledge within a sustainability pathway aligned with the GEF global objectives on soils, biodiversity and climate mitigation. In this context, increased environmental sustainability is closely associated with an enhanced provision of ecosystem services of regulation and support, including the conservation of soil organic carbon, pollination, biological control and the maintenance of soil fertility, which strengthen ecosystem functionality and sustain productive resilience (García Inza et al.). Thus, the transition toward sustainable and regenerative systems implies not only the adoption of practices at the farm level, but also the comprehensive reconfiguration of the relationships among landscape, economy and society, ~~promoting production and consumption models~~ aligned with global sustainability objectives.

Drivers and Barriers

38. Within this productive and institutional context, the transition toward sustainable models is influenced by structural and operational barriers, as well as by strategic drivers that determine their feasibility.

a. An institutional framework that requires adaptation to emerging challenges related to sustainability, markets and climate resilience. The transition toward sustainable agriculture is conditioned by the capacity of MGAP and the Ministry of Environment to lead this transformation. At its foundation, several factors reinforce this institutional barrier.

Dispersion and fragmentation of information concerning institutional gaps, policy and sectoral articulation, and the status of Uruguayan agriculture in its transition toward sustainability. Although there is robust production of environmental data, progress such as the implementation of the PUMRS and experiences in agroecological transition and social co innovation, gaps persist in the integrated analysis of institutional and sectoral dimensions and in assessing the impacts of sustainable practices. This limits the development of a strategic vision for decision making and for the formulation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture. For MGAP and the Ministry of Environment, it is essential to establish, based on integrated evidence, the baseline position of the national agricultural system along its pathway toward a sustainable, biodiverse and resilient transformation, identifying structural gaps and opportunities that condition systemic change.

There is also a need for a public policy framework or instrument capable of articulating the ecosystem of policies, strategies and plans described in Output 1.1.2, and of defining the scope of sustainability, clarifying or establishing key concepts related to sustainability in agriculture and the corresponding parameters or indicators, as well as outlining a long-term strategic roadmap to achieve it.

Information systems require harmonization, consolidation and interoperability among existing platforms, sustainability approaches and data collection methodologies for measuring previously agreed sustainability indicators, as well as improved dissemination of information on sustainable practices and on sustainability approaches or combinations of approaches.

Gaps remain in resource mobilization to implement and scale sustainable transitions in priority landscapes, according to levels of degradation or risk of degradation identified, for example, in the State of the Environment Report. In this regard, MGAP and the Ministry of Environment need to develop a resource mobilization plan engaging the public sector, private sector and development cooperation to finance investments that enhance the achievement of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture results.

Limited institutional articulation between environmental and productive agendas hinders the integration of policy instruments, regulatory frameworks and investment priorities, thereby constraining policy coherence and the effective scaling of the sustainable agricultural transition.

b. The nonsystematic incorporation of sustainability and climate adaptation challenges within sectoral coordination platforms limits the strategic alignment between productive and environmental policies, thereby reducing coherence in decision making, investment orientation and the prioritization of sustainable practices. This situation constrains the development of long-term consensus and conditions the effective implementation and scaling of the transition toward sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. Within dialogue platforms, persistent barriers remain that require attention, including tensions between productive

and environmental policies arising from the absence of formal mechanisms for intersectoral articulation and co design, as well as from differences in territorial conceptualization and in the spatial and temporal scales of planning. This is further compounded by fragmentation among actors in the productive and environmental sectors, which hinders their integration and undermines coherence in decision making.

c. Challenges related to the conceptual delimitation of an approach to sustainable agricultural transition. There is an absence of a clear and well-defined approach to what constitutes Sustainable Agriculture. A precise delineation is required of concepts, definitions, practices and approaches, as well as instruments, variables, parameters, indicators and the stages necessary to guide the transition toward sustainable production systems in the long term. This lack of clarity prevents different stakeholders from aligning around a common understanding and hampers the development of coherent policies that integrate the specificities and heterogeneity of different production systems within the productive landscapes in which they operate. Isolated practices, focused on specific aspects and lacking coordination among actors: multiple stakeholders, including institutions, research centers and producers across different types and categories, are generating and co innovating sustainable practices and technologies in isolation. This results in weak synergy and coordination among the various actions, thereby reducing the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at advancing the transition toward sustainable agriculture.

d. Gaps in mobilizing the commitment of all stakeholders for the sustainable agricultural transition. Within the Uruguayan agricultural sector, there is heterogeneity among organizations and differing perspectives regarding the pathway or pathways toward sustainability. Although there is a shared interest in advancing sustainability, resistance persists among significant groups that have not yet assumed a stronger commitment to achieving sustainable outcomes.

- i. Limited information on the cost benefit relationship of sustainable solutions: Many productive enterprises, particularly family farmers, lack information on the cost benefit relationship associated with the application of environmentally sustainable, resilient and biodiversity positive solutions within their production units. This knowledge gap constrains the adoption of more sustainable practices due to uncertainty regarding their economic impact on production performance.
- ii. Fragmented or non-systematized field level information hinders the evaluation and optimization of sustainable solutions implemented within the agricultural sector. This situation affects the capacity to adequately measure impacts and externalities generated in terms of production outcomes, climate adaptation performance and the generation of environmental and economic benefits.

39. Taken together, these institutional, governance and conceptual delimitation barriers constrain the capacity of the Uruguayan agricultural system to transition in a coordinated, evidence based and long-term oriented manner toward a sustainable and resilient model. Although the country possesses significant strengths, including institutional stability, consolidated technical capacities and regulatory progress in environmental matters, structural gaps persist that hinder strategic alignment, stakeholder integration and the scaling of sustainable practices across productive landscapes. In the context of the environmental and

climate vulnerability described above, it is necessary to promote a transformative process that articulates these dimensions and guides systemic change. Within this framework, the overall objective of the project is to achieve the transition of the Uruguayan agricultural system toward a sustainable and climate resilient model.

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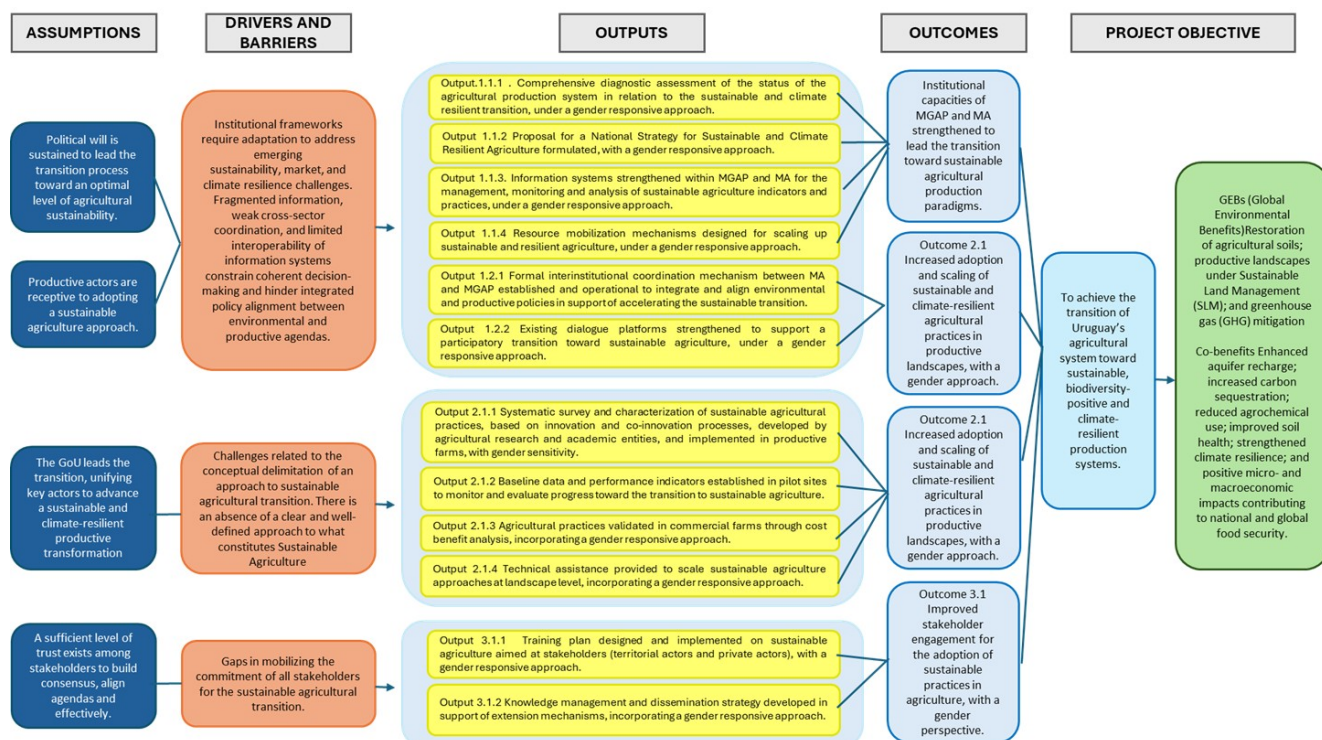
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF’s policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section

should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

1. Theory of change and detailed description of project components

Theory of Change (ToC)



13. The ultimate objective of the project is oriented toward achieving the transition of the Uruguayan agricultural system to a sustainable and climate resilient model through the sustainable management of productive landscapes. The proposal seeks to catalyze a systemic transformation that internalizes ecosystem services, strengthens climate resilience and secures global environmental benefits while maintaining productive competitiveness.

44. Sustainable agricultural transition is reinforced through the establishment of a robust institutional framework that strengthens technical and operational capacities, promotes participation and consensus building, and enables the joint implementation of actions and investments among institutional actors, research entities, academia and the private sector, including the productive sector as a whole. This framework will facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices, indicators, approaches and processes aligned with the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, which will be developed under the project, clearly defining the concepts, variables, metrics and stages required for its implementation. The paradigm shift toward sustainability is based on the premise that, if institutional and governance transformations are achieved; if a sustainable and climate resilient agricultural transition strategy is designed, validated and implemented; if stakeholder commitment is sustained; if robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are incorporated; and if the necessary resources are

allocated under an intersectoral approach with gender considerations, then global environmental benefits will be generated, ecosystem services will increase and the productivity of agricultural value chains will be sustained over the long term, thereby strengthening resilience. Achieving this requires changes in the short, medium and long term, primarily related to the following:

An institutional framework oriented toward sustainability requires the adaptation and strengthening of technical, operational and analytical capacities to ensure informed and coordinated decision making across sectors and institutions. This entails not only the design and implementation of coherent public policy instruments, but also the allocation of resources that incentivize the transition toward sustainable agricultural systems. The consolidation of a robust monitoring, evaluation and knowledge exchange system will sustain institutional learning, facilitate coordination among stakeholders and enable the scaling of solutions that enhance resilience and global environmental benefits.

A functional governance structure that enables the convergence of actions and approaches within existing dialogue platforms, such as the Agricultural Roundtable, allowing for the articulation, coordination and management of the implementation of environmental and productive public policies, programs and projects required to accelerate transitions. This translates into investments, technologies, innovations, research and the scaling of good practices and consensus building between the Government and stakeholders to strengthen the sustainability of Uruguayan agriculture.

Ownership and scaling of sustainable practices and of individual or combined sustainability approaches, including innovative mechanisms to provide technical assistance and capacity development, guiding agricultural sustainability across different typologies and scales, reducing environmental pressure on agroecosystems under the principles of participation, sustainable management and landscape restoration in line with emerging paradigms of agricultural production and with indicators for sustainable and resilient agricultural transformation.

The project will contribute to strengthening, on a sustained basis, stakeholder commitment to the transition toward sustainable agriculture through information and knowledge management systems that actively integrate their contributions and expectations.

Assumptions

45. The scope of the results chain is determined by the following assumptions:

- i. Political will is sustained to lead the transition process toward an optimal level of agricultural sustainability. Sustainable agricultural transformation is intrinsically linked to the political commitment of the leadership of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment. Such transformation entails adaptive change processes of a conceptual, structural and operational nature, as well as the updating of legal frameworks and public policies to create enabling environments for transformative change.
- ii. Productive actors are receptive to adopting a sustainable agriculture approach. Achieving the transition toward agricultural sustainability will be constrained without the support of territorial stakeholders, civil society and the private sector. This receptiveness is linked to an understanding of the cost benefit relationship associated with the adoption of solutions for sustainable and resilient agriculture.

A sufficient level of trust exists among stakeholders to build consensus, align agendas and effectively coordinate the working mechanisms required around new agricultural production paradigms. The consolidation of this trust between the public sector and stakeholders constitutes an enabling condition for achieving results, as it facilitates intersectoral and interinstitutional coordination among public actors, civil society organizations, producers and the private sector.

Components and Results Chain

46. The project is structured around three components, four outcomes, and twelve outputs, such as:

Component 1. Institutional Framework and Governance to Lead the Sustainable Transition of Agriculture

47. This component comprehensively addresses two mutually reinforcing dimensions: (i) the institutional capacity to lead the transition toward sustainability, and (ii) governance as a framework for social participation in the transition toward a sustainable agricultural system.

48. The first dimension assumes that accelerating the transition of the production system toward sustainability requires a robust and adaptable institutional framework capable of steering the agricultural transformation process. The second dimension entails the creation and strengthening of spaces for consensus-building among government institutions (MGAP and MA), territorial actors, stakeholders across agricultural value chains, academia, and civil society. These spaces will support agreement on an officially recognized definition of sustainable agriculture in Uruguay, the strategic roadmap and indicators to assess the sector's transition, and the monitoring and feedback mechanisms necessary to ensure long-term sustainability.

Outcome 1.1. Institutional capacities of MGAP and MA strengthened to lead the transition toward sustainable agricultural production paradigms, integrating environmental, economic and social sustainability, market alignment and climate resilience, under a gender-responsive approach.

49. The sustainable transition of Uruguay's agricultural sector is contingent upon the strengthening of institutional and functional capacities within MGAP and MA to effectively lead this transformation. This medium-term outcome is grounded in the premise that adaptive change must be fostered through capacity development at the individual, institutional and systemic levels. The expected institutional changes include enhanced technical knowledge on sustainability approaches, strengthened generation and integration of evidence-based information, and the establishment of a clear strategic roadmap to guide the transition toward sustainable agriculture in Uruguay.

50. The gender-responsive approach is aligned with SENDA and with Uruguay's social, economic and environmental policy instruments, reinforcing existing frameworks and ensuring gender mainstreaming in emerging public policy instruments, including the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture promoted under this project.

51. The strategy carries an implicit objective of improving policy coherence across a broad range of national instruments that guide the sustainability of the agricultural sector. These include the National Climate Change Policy, the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development, the National Adaptation Plan for the Agricultural Sector, the Long-Term Climate Strategy ECLP 2050, and the Second Nationally Determined Contribution. It is further aligned with the Responsible Soil Use and Management Plans, the National Strategy for Agricultural Development, the National Biodiversity Strategy, the Land Degradation Neutrality targets under the UNCCD framework, the National Bio-insumos Plan, sectoral financial instruments including SIGA, FOGALE, DGDR and the Sustainable Finance Roundtable, as well as the National Bioeconomy Strategy and the National System for Productive Transformation and Competitiveness. Strengthened institutional leadership will improve coherence and strategic alignment across these instruments, reinforcing the achievement of sustainability, resilience and climate adaptation objectives within the agricultural sector.

52. The achievement of this outcome is contingent upon the delivery of the following outputs:

Output 1.1.1. Comprehensive diagnostic assessment of the status of the agricultural production system in relation to the sustainable and climate resilient transition, including the identification of enabling conditions required to institutionalize new agricultural production paradigms, under a gender-responsive approach.

53. As an input to the formulation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, a comprehensive diagnostic assessment will be conducted to determine the status of Uruguay's agricultural system in its transition toward sustainability. It is strategically important for MGAP and MA to establish a clear baseline of where the national agricultural system stands along the sustainability trajectory and to identify the structural and operational gaps that constrain further progress, based on clearly defined concepts, approaches and parameters. The development of this output requires an interdisciplinary approach integrating multiple analytical dimensions, including the public policy framework, incentive structures, production models, scales of production including family farming, and progress toward the voluntary targets related to Land Degradation Neutrality, biodiversity and climate change, among others.

54. In a cross-cutting manner, the diagnostic will incorporate a gender-responsive approach to identify and analyze structural inequalities between women and men that influence the adoption, maintenance and scaling of sustainable agricultural practices. This output will be developed in parallel and in complementarity with Output 1.1.2 and is intentionally disaggregated to serve as a foundational input to the activities under Outcome 2.1.1.

55. The implementation of this output will encompass the following key activities:

Activity 1.1.1.1 Comprehensive analysis of the enabling environment for the transition toward Sustainable Agriculture. A comprehensive assessment of the public policy framework, economic and noneconomic incentives, regulatory instruments and prevailing contractual arrangements in intensive agriculture will be conducted to identify gaps, barriers and opportunities to accelerate the transition toward Sustainable Agriculture. The study will assess coherence with national environmental targets and international commitments, integrate a gender approach and climate resilience perspective, and analyse land tenure dynamics. The diagnostic will include sex-disaggregated data on access to productive resources and working conditions to inform project interventions. This information will be used to identify gender gaps and structural constraints that affect women and men differently and will guide the design and prioritization of the project's interventions. The resulting output will be a technical

document containing regulatory, economic and contractual recommendations to inform the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

During the initial phase of the project, a Protocol on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) will be developed. It will establish clear standards of conduct, confidential reporting mechanisms, and procedures for monitoring and enforcement. The project will ensure that it is adapted to local contexts and shared with project's stakeholders for compliance through all project activities.

Activity 1.1.1.2 Characterization of the current agricultural production system. This activity will produce a comprehensive characterization of Uruguay's agricultural system, analyzing land use patterns, major crops, rotation schemes and predominant production practices. It will assess different categories of producers, including family farmers, and medium- and large-scale operators, as well as the role of women and youth in productive processes. The analysis will also examine the installed technological base, levels of intensification and relevant territorial dynamics. The characterization of the agricultural system will further deepen the identification of traditional knowledge and agricultural practices that contribute to the sustainability of agriculture and will provide inputs to guide the co-innovation approach proposed under the activity.

This characterization will establish a robust baseline to inform subsequent analytical work and guide the definition of sustainable transformation pathways.

The characterization will include the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data, as well as specific gender variables related to access to productive resources, participation in decision-making, and the adoption of sustainable practices. This will make it possible to identify existing gender gaps and structural constraints that affect women and men differently in the productive environment.

The information collected will contribute to building a robust baseline to support subsequent analyses and guide the definition of transformation pathways.

Activity 1.1.1.3 Environmental diagnostic of soils, biodiversity and ecosystem services. An assessment of the environmental status of productive landscapes will be conducted, with emphasis on soil health, biodiversity and the provision of key ecosystem services. The analysis will include indicators related to soil erosion, soil organic carbon, compliance with Responsible Soil Use and Management Plans, and environmental degradation associated with prevailing production practices. Agroecosystems of strategic relevance will be characterized by integrating ecosystem service indicators, conservation areas, ecological value zones and biological corridors within the agricultural landscape mosaic. This diagnostic will identify environmental pressures and strategic opportunities to integrate sustainability into the production system.

The diagnosis will include the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data, as well as an assessment of differences in access to, use, and management of natural resources (soil, biodiversity, and ecosystem services). It will also identify differentiated management practices and the structural constraints faced by women and men, including those related to land tenure and access to productive resources.

Furthermore, the analysis will examine how gender gaps influence the adoption of conservation, restoration, and sustainable natural resource management practices. This diagnosis will help identify pressures and opportunities to integrate environmental sustainability into the productive system.

Activity 1.1.1.4 Climate resilience and risk analysis. The vulnerability of the agricultural system to climate risks will be assessed, considering droughts, extreme rainfall events, heatwaves and interannual variability. Drawing on the Climate Risk Screening and historical and projected climate data, the analysis will assess the impacts of climate variability and change on productivity, soil health, pest and disease dynamics, as well as on the long-term viability of agricultural systems, productive landscapes and associated ecosystem services.

The analysis will include the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, as well as a differentiated assessment of the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of women and men producers to climate risks. This will help identify gaps in access to resources, information, technologies, and services that influence their ability to respond to climate change.

Priority adaptation measures will be identified to address the gender gaps identified, contributing to strengthening climate resilience in an inclusive manner.

Activity 1.1.1.5 Strategic diagnostic of family farming linked to cereal and oilseed production. A strategic assessment will be undertaken of family farming systems engaged in cereal and oilseed production, identifying structural gaps, prevailing practices and potential pathways for sustainable transition. The analysis will draw on the National Agricultural Plan Registry and the National Family Farming Registry to ensure evidence-based characterization and alignment with national policy instruments.

The analysis will include the collection and examination of sex-disaggregated data, as well as a differentiated assessment of the characteristics, constraints, and opportunities of family farming production units. It will identify typologies of women-led units and gaps in access to productive resources, financing, technical assistance, markets, and participation in decision-making spaces.

It will also analyze how these gaps influence the adoption of sustainable practices and the potential for transitioning to more resilient production systems. Based on this analysis, specific recommendations will be developed to accelerate the sustainable transition of family farming, ensuring the integration of a gender approach in project interventions.

Output 1.1.2. Proposal for a National Strategy for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agriculture formulated, with a gender responsive approach.

56. To advance the sustainable and climate resilient transformation of the agricultural sector, it is necessary to formulate, within existing governance platforms, a National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture as a formal policy instrument. The Strategy will define the conceptual framework, production systems and subsystems, sustainable practices, policy instruments, variables, indicators and transition stages required to guide the shift toward a sustainable agricultural system in the long term. It will incorporate the principles of heterogeneity across productive landscapes and apply a gender responsive approach.

57. The following activities are related to Output 1.1.2:

Activity 1.1.2.1 Design of parameters, indicators and measurement methodologies for the transition. A set of parameters, indicators and measurement methodologies will be designed within the framework of an agreed definition of Sustainable Agriculture to be formalized under the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture. In alignment with this definition, environmental, economic and social variables will be identified to construct a composite sustainability index, together with their

corresponding indicators. The activity will review existing production, environmental and climate mitigation indicators reported in the State of the Environment Report, as well as those generated by other sectoral institutions. Based on this analysis, a consolidated set of indicators will be defined to constitute the Sustainable Agriculture Index, including thresholds, methodologies, measurement instruments and institutional roles and responsibilities for its implementation. Social indicators will also be incorporated, with emphasis on gender, to make visible women's contributions and the economic and care related impacts associated with the transition. This activity will establish a conceptual and methodological framework for measuring progress toward sustainable agriculture.

Activity 1.1.2.2 Formulation of the Proposal for the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, under a gender responsive approach. Building on the evidence and inputs generated, and under the leadership of MGAP and MA, the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture will be formulated through participatory processes involving stakeholders across existing dialogue platforms, including the Agricultural Roundtable and the Living Laboratory. The Strategy will define strategic objectives, implementation mechanisms, required resources, institutional roles and responsibilities, the time horizon for achieving its objectives, and mechanisms for social accountability. It constitutes the core policy instrument of the project and will establish the foundation for national investments aimed at prevention, conservation and restoration of agroecosystems and the long-term provision of ecosystem services. The Strategy will be developed through a participatory and gender responsive process, ensuring the meaningful inclusion of rural women and their organizations during consultation and validation phases. It will incorporate specific targets, indicators and monitoring mechanisms to address structural gaps, strengthen women's economic autonomy and promote their participation in the governance of the transition toward sustainable agriculture.

Output 1.1.3. Information systems strengthened within MGAP and MA for the management, monitoring and analysis of sustainable agriculture indicators and practices, under a gender-responsive approach.

58. This output aims to strengthen the existing information systems of MGAP and enhance coordination with MA through the development of an integrated interface to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture. The platform will host information related to the sustainability indicators designed under the project and their respective measurement methodologies, as well as a structured repository containing the catalogue of sustainable practices, including their technical descriptions and associated environmental and economic impacts.

59. The strengthened system will incorporate sociodemographic, productive, territorial, environmental and institutional disaggregation criteria to reflect the status of conservation and restoration of agroecosystems, the long-term evolution of ecosystem services, and the diversity of actors engaged in the transition toward a sustainable agricultural model.

60. The interface will be housed within the Natural Resources Directorate of MGAP and aligned with the Environmental Sustainability unit^[1]. It will establish coordination mechanisms with the National Directorate for Environmental Quality and Assessment and the National Environmental Observatory under MA to ensure institutional coherence and information exchange.

The activities to be implemented under this output are described below:

Activity 1.1.3.1 Design of a Sustainable Agriculture Interface: This activity will develop a digital interface to consolidate relevant information for agricultural sustainability, integrating indicators, measurement methodologies, sustainable practices and technical evidence. The platform will

incorporate geospatial visualization features, drawing on the technical capacities of the Environmental Information Division of MA and applying usability^[2] criteria tailored to public sector management needs. Its design will facilitate coordinated work between the Natural Resources Directorate and other relevant units within MGAP, as well as DINACEA and the National Environmental Observatory under MA. The interface will support evidence-based decision making and contribute to strengthening territorial adoption and scaling of sustainable practices.

Activity 1.1.3.2 Capacity building and technical support for system use. Training sessions and technical support will be provided to teams from the Natural Resources Directorate, DINACEA and related units to strengthen effective use of the information system and analytical interpretation of system outputs and reports. These capacity building activities will enhance analytical and geospatial competencies for monitoring sustainability indicators, supporting territorial planning and informing evidence-based decision making. A gender-responsive approach will be integrated throughout the training process.

Output 1.1.4. Resource mobilization mechanisms designed to scale sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, under a gender-responsive approach.

61. This output aims to strengthen the institutional capacities of key public entities, particularly MGAP and MA, to design, coordinate and operationalize resource mobilization mechanisms aligned with the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and with commitments under the Rio Conventions.

62. The output will facilitate access to climate, environmental and development finance, including adaptation funds, the Green Climate Fund and Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net Zero Land Degradation, as well as domestic public and private financial resources. In doing so, the project will catalyze the sustainability and scaling of the agricultural transformation beyond the project's time horizon.

63. The implementation of this output will include the following activities:

Activity 1.1.4.1 Operational translation of the National Strategy. Priority areas, action lines and strategic instruments under the National Strategy will be identified to determine those requiring dedicated implementation and financial scaling mechanisms, drawing on public, private and international cooperation resources.

Activity 1.1.4.2 Design of enabling implementation mechanisms. Institutional arrangements, technical and financial criteria, and modalities for public private coordination will be developed to facilitate effective implementation of the National Strategy.

Activity 1.1.4.3 Capacity strengthening for resource mobilization. Technical capacities within MGAP and MA will be strengthened to enhance resource mobilization for climate adaptation and mitigation objectives. This will include training in project structuring, access to climate and environmental finance information, and interinstitutional coordination.

Activity 1.1.4.4 Development of a pipeline of aligned initiatives. A pipeline of investment initiatives aligned with the National Strategy will be identified and pre structured to ensure readiness for financing and progressive implementation.

Activity 1.1.4.5 Engagement with financial and cooperation partners. A structured dialogue will be established with public and private financial institutions, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners, to facilitate the progressive financing and implementation of prioritized initiatives.

Outcome 1.2. Governance strengthened to advance the transition toward sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, under a gender-responsive approach.

64. Within the framework of this project, governance is defined as a horizontal process through which the State and society, including groups with diverse interests, converge to build consensus in addressing a public policy challenge, in this case the transition toward sustainable agriculture.

65. This approach is interlinked with: i) a functional institutional framework capable of steering and facilitating the dialogue process, as reflected in Outcome 1.1; ii) the strengthening of existing participation platforms, including the Agricultural Roundtable and the Rural Development Roundtables, to support dialogue on the sustainable transition of agriculture in Uruguay and to guide the long term implementation of the strategic roadmap; iii) the establishment of clear operational mechanisms for consultative spaces, including rules of procedure, meeting frequency, modalities of engagement and the designation of ad hoc committees, to ensure structured dialogue on long term agricultural sustainability; and iv) the definition of institutional and structural mechanisms to ensure meaningful participation of women in actions related to the long term sustainable agricultural transition. This outcome is supported by the implementation of Outputs 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, which contribute in a complementary manner to its achievement.

Output 1.2.1 Formal interinstitutional coordination mechanism between MA and MGAP established and operational to integrate and align environmental and productive policies in support of accelerating the sustainable transition.

66. This output supports the establishment and operationalization of a formal interinstitutional coordination mechanism between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, aimed at ensuring the integration and alignment of environmental and productive policies within the framework of the transition toward sustainable agriculture.

67. The mechanism will respect and articulate institutional mandates while promoting regulatory coherence, technical coordination and joint planning. It will operate under defined rules of procedure, an agreed work agenda and the production of technical inputs to facilitate the integration of environmental, climate and sustainability criteria into sectoral agricultural instruments, guided by the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

68. The implementation of this output will include the following activities:

Activity 1.2.1.1 Formalization of the MA–MGAP interinstitutional mechanism. The MA–MGAP coordination mechanism will be designed and formally established through the definition of its mandate, operational structure, roles and responsibilities, rules of procedure and annual work plan. This activity will include the drafting and validation of a formal instrument, such as an interinstitutional agreement or ministerial resolution, as well as the establishment of procedures to ensure technical coordination between both ministries in the integration of environmental and productive policies in support of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

Activity 1.2.1.2 Operationalization and technical strengthening of the mechanism. The mechanism will be made operational through the organization of regular technical and strategic sessions, the establishment of a shared agenda for policy integration and the production of joint technical outputs, including guidelines, analytical reports generated by the information system and policy recommendations. The activity will strengthen institutional capacities to integrate environmental, productive, climate and gender perspectives into policy processes and will include systematic follow up of agreements adopted. The information system described under Output 1.1.3 will provide data, evidence and analytical inputs to support interinstitutional dialogue and coordination of environmental and productive policies.

Output 1.2.2. Existing dialogue platforms strengthened to support a participatory transition toward sustainable agriculture, under a gender-responsive approach.

This output aims to strengthen existing dialogue platforms, including the Agricultural Roundtable and the Rural Development Roundtables, among other relevant coordination spaces. The project will foster inclusive dialogue bringing together productive sector representatives, research institutions such as INIA, the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Transitions, the Clemente Estable Biological Research Institute, the Faculty of Agronomy and the University of the Republic. The participation of strategic actors, including agro-industrial processors, exporters and financial sector representatives, will also be promoted to build consensus around the roadmap for the sustainable agricultural transition and the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture. Dialogue platforms will ensure representative participation of youth and women's organizations, including the Network of Rural Women's Groups and the Rural Women's Association of Uruguay, thereby strengthening inclusiveness throughout the transition process.

Activity 1.2.2.1 Facilitation of dialogue processes for consensus building. Dialogue processes will be facilitated within existing coordination platforms to build consensus on the scope, synergies, dimensions, indicators and measures required for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

This activity will strengthen public policy dialogue among public institutions, agricultural value chain actors, research institutions and civil society, with the objective of reaching agreements on conceptual definitions, sustainability dimensions, indicator frameworks, coordination mechanisms and the scope of policy instruments necessary to advance the transition toward sustainable agriculture. The process will ensure the meaningful participation of women and youth in dialogue platforms and technical commissions.

Activity 1.2.2.2 Strengthening of specialized working groups across agricultural value chains. Specialized working groups will be strengthened to analyze sector specific priorities and needs across agricultural value chains, including production, research, trade, logistics and finance. This activity will promote bilateral dialogue and, where appropriate, formal cooperation and technical coordination agreements between public sector institutions and key stakeholders across agricultural value chains, to align implementation efforts under the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

Component 2. Territories and landscapes managed under a sustainable agricultural transition approach.

The second component focuses on the implementation of pilot initiatives aimed at identifying, validating and scaling sustainable practices across farms and productive landscapes, ensuring their environmental, economic and social effectiveness in line with the indicators defined under the

National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture. These actions will be implemented in coherence with the strategic roadmap established for the adoption and consolidation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

Outcome 2.1. Increased adoption and scaling of sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices across productive landscapes, under a gender-responsive approach.

69. This outcome is understood as the effective and sustained adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, resulting from progressive cultural shifts across the different segments of cereal and oilseed value chains. Adoption entails the consolidation of a sustainability-oriented production model, in which agricultural intensification is redefined under verifiable environmental sustainability criteria. This model integrates sustainable practices, including nature-based solutions, as well as complementary approaches such as agroecology and regenerative agriculture, applied systematically at both farm and landscape levels. In doing so, it simultaneously strengthens productivity, climate resilience and the provision of agroecosystem services.

70. These biophysical changes are underpinned by deeper processes of social and institutional transformation through which society internalizes and legitimizes production models that balance economic profitability with environmental sustainability. Within this framework, enabling conditions will be fostered to promote technological co-innovation, collective learning and adaptive experimentation.

71. At the same time, social transformations will be encouraged to ensure the full, equitable and effective participation of women in productive activities, decision making spaces and innovation processes. The project will assess both positive and negative externalities affecting women, including implications for workload, economic benefits and care responsibilities, as well as potential impacts on health and wellbeing.

72. The achievement of this outcome represents the operationalization of advances generated under Components 1 and 3 and establishes the enabling conditions for the progressive implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture in Uruguay. This outcome will be delivered through a living laboratory approach structured around three demonstration units operating simultaneously and in coordination, sharing actors, methodologies and lessons learned.

73. These demonstration units will generate systemic evidence, consolidate co-innovation processes and enable the integrated measurement of productive, environmental, economic and social indicators. They will also contribute to strengthening and standardizing datasets within existing information systems, facilitating data traceability and producing methodologies and results that feed into the knowledge management framework described under Component 3. This interconnected approach closes the cycle between evidence, information and decision making.

74. The consolidation of the living laboratory will be supported through a strategic partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Transitions, the Faculty of Agronomy and the National Institute for Agricultural Research, institutions currently implementing agroecological transition platforms aligned with the objectives of this project. This collaboration will leverage existing technical capacities, experimental infrastructure and specialized human capital, avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring technical and institutional sustainability beyond the project duration. The living laboratory will operate as a functional extension of dialogue platforms, directly contributing to the

identification and validation of sustainable practices, whose results will inform decision making and strategic discussions within those governance platforms.

Output 2.1.1 Systematic survey and characterization of sustainable agricultural practices, based on innovation and co-innovation processes, developed by agricultural research and academic entities, and implemented in productive farms, with a gender-responsive approach.

75. Under this output, two demonstration units will be strengthened to support the assessment of sustainable agricultural practices and methodologies through a living laboratory approach that brings together family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers and agribusinesses, academia, industry and exporters, relevant public institutions including MGAP and MA, and civil society actors. The first corresponds to the Resilience Platform to be implemented at the La Estanzuela Experimental Station in the Department of Colonia, led by the National Institute for Agricultural Research, covering an area of 60 hectares. The second involves the strengthening of the Mario Cassinoni Experimental Station Platform in the Department of Paysandú, led by the Faculty of Agronomy. The focus will be placed on agricultural system diversification and the testing of different levels and strategies of diversification within 60 ha. area.

76. This output will contribute to enhancing the information base of the Directorate General for Rural Development of MGAP regarding sustainable and climate resilient transformations in agriculture, particularly in family farming systems, in line with key thematic areas including agroecology, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship.

77. During this phase, a gender responsive approach will be integrated into the methodological design, implementation of the demonstration units and systematization of results in order to capture differentiated conditions of access, participation, adoption and benefit distribution of sustainable practices between women and men.

78. This will enable the recognition of women's contributions to innovation and co-innovation processes, the identification of specific barriers to their participation and technological adoption, and the generation of evidence to strengthen the relevance, inclusiveness and scalability of the practices assessed.

Activity 2.1.1.1 Methodological design for the assessment of sustainable practices. A common methodological framework will be developed for the assessment and characterization of sustainable agricultural practices, incorporating technical, productive, environmental, economic and social criteria, as well as gender responsive variables and scalability parameters. For the methodological design, inputs generated from the agricultural system characterization will be considered, particularly the good practices developed and applied by family farmers, as well as by medium- and large-scale agricultural operators. The methodology will be aligned with the living laboratory approach and will ensure comparability across the demonstration platforms described under Activities 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3.

Activity 2.1.1.2 Implementation of the Resilience demonstration unit at La Estanzuela. The Resilientia Platform will be operationalized at the La Estanzuela Experimental Station, led by the National Institute for Agricultural Research, with a focus on identifying and evaluating sustainable practices generated through applied research. The activity will promote the participation of family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers, nearby communities and institutional actors, fostering

processes of experimentation, validation and collective learning within the living laboratory framework.

Activity 2.1.1.3 Strengthening of the EMAC demonstration unit. The EMAC demonstration unit of the Faculty of Agronomy will be strengthened, with a focus on the diversification of agricultural systems through long term field trials conducted over 60 ha. area. Activities will include testing different levels and strategies of diversification and applying an integrated interdisciplinary approach with the participation of family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers organizations.

Activity 2.1.1.4 Technical characterization and systematization of practices. A detailed technical characterization of the practices assessed will be conducted, including analysis of productive performance, preliminary environmental impacts, technical requirements, enabling conditions and replication potential. The information generated will serve as the basis for selecting practices for validation at larger scales, informing strategic decision making and contributing to the performance monitoring framework of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

Output 2.1.2 Baseline data and performance indicators established in pilot sites to monitor and evaluate progress toward the transition to sustainable agriculture, with a gender-responsive approach.

79. Baseline diagnostics will be established, and site specific technical and environmental indicators will be defined in pilot sites to periodically assess the health, performance and sustainability of production systems through systematic monitoring and results analysis.

Activity 2.1.2.1 Collection and systematization of biophysical and productive data in pilot sites for baseline development. Primary and secondary data will be collected, integrated and analyzed at farm and landscape levels, including land use, soil organic carbon, erosion levels, agronomic management practices, yields and conservation practices. Geospatial tools and standardized technical protocols will be applied to establish the initial status of production systems and construct a robust baseline.

Activity 2.1.2.2 Participatory design and technical validation of production system health indicators. A set of biophysical, productive and environmental indicators will be defined, such as permanent soil cover, carbon balance, potential erosion index and input use efficiency. These indicators will be validated with technical and institutional stakeholders, and methodologies and monitoring frequencies will be established to ensure periodic and consistent measurement over time.

Activity 2.1.2.3 Design and operationalization of a monitoring system for sustainable agriculture transition. A monitoring system will be designed and operationalized to consolidate geospatial information and biophysical, productive and socioeconomic indicators, aligned with existing information systems of MGAP and MA. This system will constitute the first structured exercise for data collection, validation and reporting on the transition toward sustainable agriculture, enabling periodic tracking of environmental and institutional performance indicators at farm, landscape and national levels. The system will include standardized data capture and updating protocols, clearly defined institutional responsibilities and feedback mechanisms linking pilot sites, living laboratories and governance platforms, thereby ensuring methodological coherence and evidence-based decision making.

Output 2.1.3 Agricultural practices validated in family farming and commercial farms through cost benefit analysis, incorporating a gender-responsive approach.

80. Once sustainable technologies and solutions have been validated at farm level within the demonstration phase, the subsequent step will consist of their validation in representative family and commercial farms across different production subsystems, differentiated according to agricultural value chains and production contexts. This phase aims to assess the feasibility and performance of these solutions under real production conditions from multiple dimensions: economic viability through cost benefit analysis; generation of global environmental benefits; financial performance; and the strengthening of resilience and adaptive capacity of production systems. Social impacts will also be evaluated, with particular attention to recognizing women's roles in innovation and co innovation processes, assessing economic impacts on women, and analyzing implications for workload and care responsibilities. A gender responsive approach will be integrated into farm selection, experimental design, technology validation and results analysis in order to capture how differentiated access to resources, decision making authority, workload distribution and risk perception influence the adoption and performance of sustainable solutions. This approach will generate comprehensive evidence on the economic, environmental and social viability of the technologies in real production settings, strengthening their relevance, scalability and long-term sustainability.

81. As an implementation strategy, a living laboratory approach will be developed, led by the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Transitions in partnership with two private companies, which will assume operational management of commercial farms incorporating an integrated package of sustainable practices. In parallel, family farmer organizations will be identified and engaged to validate technologies appropriate for this group of producers. The central objective of this platform is the functional redesign of productive landscapes to minimize nutrient losses and agrochemical drift into water bodies. Complementary actions will include the evaluation of diversified crop rotations and polyculture schemes, as well as forage export as a mechanism to enhance nutrient circularity and nutrient balance at landscape level.

82. Sustainable management practices are expected to be implemented across approximately five thousand hectares of cropland through paired micro watershed trials. This approach will compare a control micro watershed under conventional management with a treatment micro watershed applying an alternative sustainable management design.

83. The comparative assessment will measure key variables including phosphorus, nitrogen and other agrochemicals in water, soil organic carbon, and biophysical soil properties. It will also assess the incorporation of biodiversity enhancing practices such as the maintenance of natural ecosystem patches and the establishment of ecological corridors within farms. Additional measures will include buffer strips; managed grazing strips and the use of perennial grasses aimed at nutrient export and landscape level nutrient regulation.

84. The following activities will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 2.1.3.1 Selection of family and commercial farms and experimental design. Representative family and commercial farms will be identified and selected across different production subsystems and territorial contexts. Comparative experimental schemes will be designed, including paired micro watershed trials contrasting conventional management with sustainable management systems, in coordination with relevant public and private actors.

Activity 2.1.3.2 Implementation of the living laboratory demonstration unit in family and commercial farms. A third living laboratory demonstration unit will be established in family and commercial farms,

led by the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Transitions, with a focus on the functional redesign of productive landscapes through the integrated application of sustainable practices.

Activity 2.1.3.3 Biophysical, environmental and productive monitoring. A monitoring system will be implemented across approximately five thousand hectares of cropland to measure key variables including nitrogen, phosphorus and agrochemical concentrations in soil and water, soil organic carbon, and biophysical soil properties. The activity will also assess the incorporation of biodiversity enhancing practices such as the maintenance of natural ecosystem patches, the establishment of ecological corridors within farms, forest cover and grassland areas.

This activity is directly linked to Output 2.1.2 on baseline development and indicator design and will provide periodic data that will inform and update the institutional information interface described under Output 1.1.3, ensuring methodological coherence and evidence-based decision making.

Activity 2.1.3.4 Economic and resilience analysis. Comparative cost benefit analyses will be conducted between conventional and sustainable management systems, integrating economic variables, social variables with particular attention to gender dimensions, global environmental benefits and contributions to climate resilience and adaptive capacity of production systems.

Output 2.1.4 Technical assistance provided to scale sustainable agriculture approaches at landscape level, incorporating a gender-responsive approach.

85. This output will promote the territorial scaling of previously validated sustainable agricultural practices through targeted and strategic technical assistance to key actors across agricultural value chains in the Litoral Agrícola region. The approach prioritizes operational replicability within selected productive landscapes, integrating verifiable environmental criteria and ensuring coherence with the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

86. Unlike conventional extension services, this intervention will adopt a catalytic approach aimed at consolidating replicable and financially and environmentally sustainable models. MGAP and MA, in coordination with ANDE, the National Institute for Agricultural Research, the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Transitions and the Faculty of Agronomy, will lead the scaling strategy. Post project sustainability will be supported through the institutionalization of these models and their articulation with existing financial instruments, as well as with family farmers, and medium and large-scale producers -led investments once the social, economic and environmental benefits of the implemented practices have been demonstrated. A gender-responsive approach will be integrated throughout this process to ensure inclusion, territorial ownership and equitable access to opportunities.

Activity 2.1.4.1 Identification of priority territories and actors for scaling. Priority territories, agricultural value chains and key actors will be identified and prioritized for scaling interventions based on criteria including productive representativeness, existing levels of soil degradation, adoption potential, institutional articulation and alignment with the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.

Activity 2.1.4.2 Targeted technical assistance for adoption of sustainable practices. Targeted technical assistance will be provided to family farmers, and medium and large-scale producers, producer organizations, agribusinesses and relevant institutional actors to facilitate the practical implementation of validated sustainable technologies and management schemes. The focus will be on effective adoption under real farm conditions rather than experimental demonstration. Technical support modalities will be adapted to different production profiles and socio territorial contexts,

incorporating differentiated approaches that respond to the specific needs of women and men in terms of access to information, time availability, mobility, networks and productive resources.

Activity 2.1.4.3 Cross cutting integration of a gender responsive approach.

A gender responsive approach will be systematically integrated into scaling and technical assistance actions, ensuring equitable participation of women and men, recognition of differentiated roles and strengthened participation of women in productive and territorial decision-making processes.

Component 3. Knowledge management and learning to strengthen stakeholder engagement in the transition toward sustainable agriculture.

87. Within the framework of Component 3, stakeholder commitment is understood as the level of active ownership, informed participation and sustained co responsibility of public institutions, private sector actors, academia, civil society and other territorial stakeholders in the implementation and consolidation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and, consequently, in advancing the paradigm shift toward sustainable agricultural transition in Uruguay. This commitment encompasses the scaling and adoption of sustainable practices, the institutionalization of indicators and participatory decision-making processes, as well as the uptake of tools for data generation, monitoring, reporting and analysis. It implies the internalization of knowledge, territorial adaptation of identified alternatives according to actor specific contexts, the integration of lessons learned into institutional and productive processes, and the co-creation and dissemination of knowledge through structured exchange among actors, sectors and institutions.

88. Through structured knowledge management mechanisms, including systematization of experiences, technical exchange, learning platforms, training processes and dissemination activities, this component seeks to transform information into institutional and territorial capacities, and capacities into sustained action. By strengthening social and institutional foundations, it aims to ensure that the transition toward sustainable agriculture is sustained beyond the project cycle and across administrative periods.

Outcome 3.1 Improved stakeholder engagement for the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture, with a gender-responsive approach.

89. The construction of a new paradigm for the transition toward sustainable agriculture requires catalyzing cultural and technological change and mobilizing stakeholder commitment to adoption. This can only be achieved through effective communication and dissemination of knowledge, a shared strategic vision and clarity regarding the actions required to achieve it.

90. This component seeks to strengthen commitment, reduce resistance to change and empower stakeholders regarding sustainable practices, approaches and the roadmap guiding the transition toward sustainable agriculture in Uruguay.

91. Within this framework, the outcome assumes that equitable access to information and knowledge must be ensured for women and men, including youth. Transformational change will therefore be pursued through a systematic, analytical and operational integration of a gender responsive approach.

Output 3.1.1 Training plan designed and implemented on sustainable agriculture aimed at stakeholders (territorial actors and private actors), with a gender-responsive approach.

92. In close articulation with the dialogue platforms, the project will develop a structured training plan targeting territorial stakeholders and actors across agricultural value chains. The training will address concepts, approaches, technologies and good practices related to sustainable agricultural transformation, as well as analysis of the costs and benefits associated with the adoption of sustainable practices.

93. This output will contribute to building a coherent and inclusive narrative around sustainable agricultural transformation, aligned with the participatory processes promoted under Outcome 1.2, particularly within the Agricultural Dialogue Platform, the living laboratory approach and the strengthened coordination between MGAP and MA for the development and monitoring of sustainability indicators. It will include knowledge transfer facilitated by the project, peer learning among institutional actors and international exchange among private sector actors through structured business to business engagement.

94. The training plan will integrate a gender responsive approach across all components, ensuring that content, methodologies and participation mechanisms respond to the differentiated needs and constraints of women and men in the agricultural sector. It will adopt a learning by doing approach, incorporating adult education methodologies that recognize the diversity of trajectories, experiences and learning styles among stakeholders. Within this framework, capacity development will be conceived as an adaptive and participatory process designed to respond to territorial demands and promote collective knowledge creation under principles similar to the farmer field school approach. This methodology will strengthen ownership of sustainability approaches and practices, expand the reach of training processes and contribute to more equitable, relevant and sustainable long-term impacts.

Activity 3.1.1.1 Design and implementation of a training and knowledge upgrading plan for technical units of MGAP and MA. A structured training and knowledge upgrading plan will be designed and implemented for the technical units of MGAP and MA, as well as the Territorial Rural Development Teams and the Directorate General for Rural Development. The objective is to institutionalize and mainstream the sustainability approach within the Uruguayan agricultural system from an integrated and systems perspective. The training process will be grounded in the official definition of sustainable agriculture as established in the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and will incorporate the relevant approaches or combinations of approaches, including agroecology and regenerative agriculture, as well as sustainability indicators and practices.

A gender responsive approach will be integrated into training content and methodologies to ensure that existing gaps, differentiated roles and the specific contributions of women and men within production systems are adequately recognized and addressed.

Activity 3.1.1.2 Implementation of a training plan for stakeholders on sustainable agriculture approaches and practices. A structured training plan will be implemented for stakeholders across agricultural value chains to address key knowledge gaps related to sustainable agriculture approaches and practices. One of the main barriers to adoption is the limited technical knowledge among family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers and the insufficient availability of data on the productive and environmental benefits derived from the implementation of sustainable practices. This process will be carried out within the framework of the Rural Development Platforms

and in coordination with private extension service providers. The training will address knowledge gaps among productive actors and strengthen access to information regarding the economic, productive and environmental benefits of sustainable solutions. Inclusive methodologies, flexible delivery formats and enabling conditions will be adopted to facilitate the effective participation of women producers, female technical staff and youth.

Activity 3.1.1.3 Development of peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges among technical teams and international counterparts. Peer to peer knowledge exchanges will be organized between technical teams of MGAP and MA and counterpart public institutions in countries that have advanced in the development and implementation of sustainability approaches. The objective is to mobilize institutional knowledge and facilitate the transfer of lessons learned in areas such as innovative governance models including landcare approaches, agricultural carbon certification schemes, public incentive programs and other emerging themes relevant to the future of agriculture in Uruguay. In addition, structured exchanges will be promoted among leading private sector actors to strengthen commitment to sustainability and foster the creation of a core group capable of driving the adoption of sustainable solutions within agricultural value chains.

Output 3.1.2 Knowledge management and dissemination strategy developed in support of extension mechanisms, incorporating a gender-responsive approach.

95. The project will design and implement an integrated knowledge management and dissemination strategy aimed at strengthening extension mechanisms and accelerating the adoption of sustainable practices among family farmers, medium- and large-scale producers engaged in export-oriented crops, a segment where structural limitations persist in accessing public technical assistance services. This strategy will operate as a cross-cutting driver of transformation, articulating scientific evidence, project generated knowledge and available institutional support to promote continuous, equitable, accessible and effective learning processes for women and men. It will explicitly address differentiated barriers to information access, including connectivity constraints, digital literacy gaps, time availability and preferred communication formats and channels, to improve decision making and consolidate transitions toward more biodiverse and climate resilient production systems. A gender responsive approach will be systematically integrated into content design, dissemination formats and feedback mechanisms to maximize knowledge uptake, strengthen productive decision making and contribute to transitions toward more biodiverse, resilient and inclusive agricultural systems, including the use of inclusive and non-discriminatory language across all communication outputs.

96. This output will contribute to compiling existing information and producing communication materials aimed at enhancing stakeholders' understanding of sustainable agriculture. It will also provide complementary inputs to the institutional information system developed under Output 1.1.3, strengthening its outreach and practical use.

Activity 3.1.2.1 Design of the knowledge management strategy. In line with the catalytic and transformative nature of the project, a comprehensive knowledge management strategy will be designed to define the institutional architecture and information flows required to systematize, validate and transfer relevant technical content. The strategy will include a rapid assessment of the national extension ecosystem and will establish multichannel delivery models, including digital platforms, self-learning modules, technical briefs and audiovisual materials, to ensure that information reaches stakeholders in a timely, accessible and practically applicable manner within production contexts. A gender responsive approach will be integrated into the strategy, including an analysis of differentiated barriers to information access and the incorporation of measures to address these constraints.

Activity 3.1.2.2 Documentation of project experience, good practices and lessons learned. The project will systematically document implementation experiences, organizing evidence on good practices, technological innovations and social co innovation processes emerging both at farm level and within institutional coordination platforms. Environmental and economic results will be documented, including comparative performance analyses and case studies illustrating how sustainable practices positively influence soil management, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. This systematization will generate high quality knowledge products tailored to both decision makers and producers. It will also ensure that outputs reflect the diversity of actors involved, including women producers, female technical staff and emerging leadership.

Activity 3.1.2.3 Dissemination of knowledge through effective communication channels. Knowledge dissemination will be carried out through a segmented communication strategy designed to respond to the specific profiles of producers (family farmers, and medium- and large-scale), who require concise, evidence-based information supported by institutional credibility. The project will develop thematic campaigns aligned with the agricultural calendar, as well as technical bulletins, audiovisual capsules and digital products to facilitate access to key information on sustainable practices, climate risks and environmental performance. These actions will be implemented in coordination with public and private actors, leveraging existing networks, platforms and institutional mechanisms to expand outreach beyond traditional public extension services. All communication and dissemination products will adopt inclusive and non-sexist language, ensuring equitable representation and visibility of women and men.

The project will ensure that women and womens' organizations actively participate in knowledge management processes, including documentation, dissemination and scaling of lessons learned and best practices. Communication strategies will apply segmentation criteria that consider differences in access, use and information preferences between women and men, and will develop tailored knowledge products that highlight their respective experiences and contributions to sustainable agricultural practices. In addition, targeted measures will be implemented to strengthen the capacities and visibility of women and their organizations as key agents of change, promoting their active role in dissemination processes. Feedback mechanisms will be established to assess the usefulness and applicability of knowledge products, incorporating differentiated inputs from women and men to continuously improve communication and outreach.

Activity 3.1.2.4 Integration of knowledge products into the institutional virtual repository linked to the information system. All information generated under the project will be indexed within a repository linked to the institutional information system developed under Output 1.1.3. This indexed repository will be hosted on the GUB.UY website, ensuring data traceability, continuous updating and accessibility for different user groups.

The repository will integrate datasets, indicators, methodologies, case studies and communication materials developed under accessibility and gender responsive criteria. It will constitute a lasting institutional asset that extends beyond the project life cycle and strengthens the capacity of MGAP and its technical directorates to sustain learning and knowledge management processes on a national scale.

1. Stakeholder engagement

97. The transition toward a sustainable agricultural production system in Uruguay is not recent. Over the past two decades, the Government has promoted a process of intensification that has generated

positive results in terms of productivity and competitiveness. However, there is growing concern within the Government of Uruguay and among stakeholders regarding the need to advance toward an agricultural model that maintains productivity while balancing environmental sustainability, delivering positive outcomes for nature and society. Public institutions, family farmers, medium- and large-scale producers, agro-industrial processors, exporters, financial institutions, academia, research centers and civil society share concerns about the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the current production system.

98. The project reflects a strong institutional commitment from MGAP, MA and national scientific and technical entities to advance the transition toward sustainable agriculture. This commitment is reflected in strengthened interinstitutional coordination, enhanced technical capacities and alignment of public policies with global environmental objectives, ensuring political and technical support for implementation and long-term sustainability.

99. Civil society organizations constitute another key segment of the ecosystem, including nonprofit and producer associations that promote soil conservation and biodiversity protection through sustainable practices. Organizations such as the Uruguayan Federation of CREA Groups, the National Rural Development Commission, Federated Agricultural Cooperatives, the Rural Association of Uruguay, the National Association of Seed Producers and the Uruguayan No Till Association play an important role in promoting and scaling sustainable agricultural practices.

100. National universities, including the Faculty of Agronomy, the Faculty of Sciences of the University of the Republic and the Technological University, as well as research centers such as the National Institute for Agricultural Research and the Clemente Estable Biological Research Institute, represent a critical segment actively engaged in the project. Universities will support research generation and knowledge transfer through extension and university society linkage mechanisms. Research centers will contribute technical expertise, documented scientific evidence, validated technological innovations and operational capacities that will significantly enhance knowledge dissemination to producers at different scales.

101. The private sector also plays a central role in advancing agricultural sustainability. Actors across different segments of the value chain are key for coordination and complementarity of actions aimed at transforming agricultural systems. At the downstream segment, exporting and processing companies purchasing cereals and oilseeds often operate their own sustainability programs aligned with sustainable transformation approaches. Their engagement is critical to accelerate behavioral and technological change at farm level. Multinational companies such as Cargill and Louis Dreyfus Company may represent strategic partners for this initiative.

102. Similarly, input suppliers and technical service providers are important partners in promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

103. At the upstream end of the value chain, family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producer organizations representing hundreds of grain and oilseed farmers constitute the primary target group of this project. Changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices will determine the success of project outcomes. Establishing coordination and complementarity agreements with organizations such as Federated Agricultural Cooperatives and the National Rural Development Commission will significantly influence farm level adoption and territorial scaling of sustainable practices.

104. In addition, both public and private financial institutions will play a transversal role by developing green financial products that incentivize investment in sustainable agricultural practices.

105. The project will implement a structured transformational dialogue process based on successive cycles of active listening, shared vision building, barrier identification and collaborative solution design. This process will be conducted through multistakeholder platforms integrating public institutions, family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producer organizations, academia, private sector actors and financial institutions, creating facilitated and trust-based spaces to align incentives, reduce asymmetries and promote voluntary commitments.

106. Coalitions will be formed around thematic priorities including soil, biodiversity, sustainable practices, economic incentives and green finance. These coalitions will be strengthened through co innovation, knowledge exchange and joint field validation of practices. Through this mechanism, the project aims to catalyze social learning, accelerate behavioral change and consolidate stable alliances capable of sustaining and scaling the sustainable transformation of Uruguay's agricultural system.

107. Stakeholder engagement has been embedded throughout project preparation through a series of consultations, including bilateral meetings, technical workshops and multi-stakeholder dialogues involving public institutions, producer organizations, private sector actors, research centers, academy and civil society. These consultations informed the identification of key barriers, the prioritization of interventions and the design of the co-innovation and transformational dialogue approach.

108. In line with this approach, the following table presents the key actors identified and the roles they will assume within the dialogue and co-creation process, illustrating their specific contributions to project coalitions and collaborative platforms.

109. List of stakeholders and roles in support of project implementation.

Number	Acronym	Emails	Roles
Public institutions			
Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries	MGAP	secretariadgrn@mgap.gub.uy -	In its capacity as the governing authority for agricultural development and sectoral productive instruments. Its responsibility includes articulation with family farmers, medium- and large-scale producer organizations and agricultural value chains, the

			integration of sustainable practices, political dialogue for ENAS and the development of mechanisms to articulate, knowledge management and scaling up of the good practices generated.
Ministry of Environment	MA	secretaria.dinabise@ambiente.gub.uy -	It leads to environmental integration, provides strategic co-financing, ensures coherence with international commitments and strengthens intersectoral environmental governance.
Producer Organizations and Private Sector Actors (Family farming, Medium- and Large-Scale)			
Confederation of Family Farmer Organizations of Mercosur – Expanded (COPROFAM Ampliado)	COPROFAM - Uruguay		It will participate in governance mechanisms for the transition toward sustainable agriculture in Uruguay, including the process of formulating the National Agriculture Strategy.
Uruguayan Agroecology Network	REDAE		It will contribute to the identification of sustainable practices implemented and to enhancing the visibility of the

			contributions of family farmers to the agricultural transition. Furthermore, it constitutes a natural partner to facilitate the transfer and scaling of good practices generated through the pilots implemented under Component 2.
Federated Agricultural Cooperatives	CAF	secretaria@caf.org.uy .	It will contribute to the project in the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to grassroots organizations
National Commission for Rural Development	CNFR	cnfr@cnfr.org.uy .	It will contribute to the project through the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to grassroots organizations, including family farmer organizations.
Uruguayan Federation of Groups CREA	FUCREA	creacapacita@fucrea.org	It will contribute to the project in the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to grassroots organizations.
Rural Association of Uruguay	ARU	info@aru.org.uy	Participation in spaces for dialogue in the design of the Sustainable

			Agriculture Strategy.
Rural Federation	FRU	fedrural@gmail.com .	Participation in spaces for dialogue in the design of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy.
National Seed Producers Association	ANAPROSE	anaprose@anaprose.com.uy	It will contribute to the project in the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to seed producers
Uruguayan Association for Direct Seeding	AUSID	ausid@ausid.com.uy .	It will contribute to the project in the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to seed producers
Union of Seed Companies	URUPOV	Executive Director: Diego Risso, drisso@urupov.org.uy , Purpose. (+598) 99 617 139 Operational Manager: Victoria Stewart, victoria@urupov.org.uy , Cel. (+598) 99 362 617 Secretary: María Noel González, secretaria@urupov.org.uy	It will contribute to the project in the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to seed producers
Network of Native and Creole Seeds	-	prensa@redes.org.uy Phone +598 98 956 656	It will contribute to the project in the dissemination and transfer of sustainable solutions to seed producers
Uruguayan Chamber of Agricultural Services	CUSA	cusa@cusa.org.uy .	Participation in spaces for dialogue in the design of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

Uruguayan Seed Chamber	CUS	info@cus.org.uy	Participation in spaces for dialogue in the design of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, in phytochemical applicators and other cooperative services.
Mercantile Chamber of Products of the Country	CMPP	info@camaramercantil.com	Participation in spaces for dialogue in the design of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy
Cargill	-	victoria_varela@cargill.com	Establish complementary or co-investment alliances to preserve land, conserve water sources, and support the resilience of producer families within the framework of sustainable agriculture. Provide spaces for the validation of solutions for sustainable agriculture on their production sites.
Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC)	LDC	José Palma is general manager: jose.palma@ldcom.com and mobile phone is +598 96 411 641.	Expand corporate efforts for the implementation of sustainable practices in oilseed value chains. Provide spaces for the validation

			of solutions for sustainable agriculture on their production sites
Academy			
Faculty of Agronomy - Udelar	Fagro	decanato@fagro.edu.uy	To establish activities for the generation of knowledge and links with society.
Faculty of Sciences - Udelar	FCIEN	decanato@fcien.edu.uy	To establish activities for the generation of knowledge and links with society.
Technological University of Uruguay	UTEC	secretaria@utec.edu.uy	To establish activities for the generation of knowledge and links with society.
Clemente Estable Institute	IIBCE ^[3]	kantunez@iibce.edu.uy	To establish activities for the generation of knowledge and links with society.
National Institute of Agricultural Research	INIA	inia@inia.org.uy	Coordination and complementarity for the transfer of practices for sustainable agriculture. Lead, in coordination with ITTSA and FAGRO, the implementation of activities and outputs under Component 2 of the project, particularly in terms of the identification, validation and scaling of lessons learned at the level of family farmer organizations,

			medium- and large-scale producers, and local, departmental and national governments.
South American Institute for Sustainability Studies	SARAS	info@saras-institute.org	To establish activities for the generation of knowledge and links with society.
Financial sector			
Unicampo Uruguay SRL	Unicampo	secretaria@unicampo.com.uy	Coordination to drive the adoption of sustainable solutions with its Itinerant Experimental Fields.
Sancor Insurance	=	info@sancorsegueros.com.uy	Encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in insurance products.
MAPFRE	=	info@mapfre.com.uy	Encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in financial products.
Banco República Oriental del Uruguay	BROU	President: Cr. Álvaro García, presidencia@brou.com.uy, Phone +598 2 1896 2710 Vice President: Dr. Adriana Rodríguez, secretaria-vicepresidencia@brou.com.uy 2nd Vice President: Dr. Leandro Francolino, secretariasegundavicepresidencia@brou.com.uy Director: Cr. Ignacio Fessler, secretariadirectorfessler@brou.com.uy Corporate Executive Manager: Cra. Gabriela	Encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in insurance products.

		Fernández, gabriela.fernandez@brou.com.uy Operations Manager: Ms. María González, maria.gonzalez.nunez@brou.com.uy Executive Manager of the Distribution Network: Mr. Walter Freiría, walter.freiria@brou.com.uy	
Others			
Ministry of Economy and Finance	MEF	secretaria@mef.gub.uy	Incorporate actions to encourage the adoption of sustainable agriculture into the SFM agenda. Boost funding for sustainable agriculture practices.
Central Bank of Uruguay	BCU	info@bcu.gub.uy	
Sustainable Finance Roundtable	MFS	It does not have institutional mail	

2. Private sector involvement

110. The Uruguayan private sector, comprising producer associations (FFML), cooperatives, commercial enterprises, trade organizations, technical service and input providers, exporters, agro-industries and financial system actors, constitutes a central pillar in the transition toward sustainable, biodiverse and climate resilient agriculture. Given its scale of operation, investment capacity and influence over production decisions, the project incorporates it as a strategic partner within governance mechanisms and transformational dialogue processes. Through multistakeholder platforms, these organizations will actively participate in the assessment and updating of regulatory frameworks, public policy instruments and economic incentives that shape agricultural practices, contributing to the identification of barriers, the definition of improvement pathways and the strengthening of coherence between sustainability, competitiveness and regulatory predictability.

111. The project will mobilize the innovation capacity of the private sector to validate and scale sustainable production approaches at farm, value chain and landscape levels, including soil conservation practices, biological diversification, regenerative agriculture and integrated production systems. Exporting and agro-industrial companies will contribute their experience in traceability, environmental standards and responsible sourcing schemes, supporting the gradual transformation of markets and alignment of international demand with the country's sustainable supply. In parallel, cooperatives will facilitate territorial adoption of best practices through extension networks, peer learning and co-innovation mechanisms with producers across different scales.

112. The financial system, including public institutions such as the Bank of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, commercial banking institutions and private insurers, will be integrated into the process through the design of green financial products that incentivize investments in diversified rotations, precision technologies, sustainable soil management, restoration and emission reduction. These

instruments will help reduce risk exposure, improve the bankability of sustainable practices and create enabling conditions for private investment to become a driver of structural transformation.

113. Through this approach, the project seeks to catalyze systemic change in the national agro-productive model by advancing the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture as the guiding framework of a new paradigm. This entails activating market signals, reorienting investment flows, promoting voluntary standards and stimulating more sustainable value chains, with the objective of reversing soil degradation and biodiversity loss trends and transitioning toward resilient, regenerative production systems aligned with the country's environmental commitments.

3. Innovation & Transformative Change, Knowledge management, Policy coherence and Capacity development

Knowledge Management and Learning

114. Outcome 3.1 establishes the central architecture for knowledge management and learning, recognizing that sustainable agricultural transformation in Uruguay requires reshaping entrenched paradigms, deconstructing conventional practices and fostering a productive culture oriented toward ecosystem balance. In this context, knowledge management and communication assume a strategic role, as the transition toward regenerative, biodiverse and climate resilient systems depends on the country's capacity to mobilize critical information, generate credible evidence, strengthen capacities and promote continuous processes of social learning.

115. The project will build upon Uruguay's solid existing knowledge base. Institutions such as INIA, public universities, research centers including SARAS and IIBCE, as well as producer organizations such as COPROFAM, REDAE, CAF, CNFR, FUCREA and AUSID, and actors in the export and seed sectors possess accumulated technical evidence on soil management, functional biodiversity, crop rotations, soil organic carbon, agroecology, regenerative agriculture, traceability and sustainability standards. This body of knowledge will be systematized and comparatively analyzed to inform public policy design, define incentives, adjust regulatory frameworks and develop technological packages adapted to different production scales.

116. Complementarily, the project will generate new knowledge through demonstration pilots, validation of sustainable practices, standardized monitoring of soil organic carbon and biodiversity, ecosystem service assessments and market studies identifying barriers and incentives within sustainable agricultural value chains. This process will be complemented by documentation of transition pathways, experiential learning and producer testimonies, integrating technical and productive dimensions with territorial learning dynamics.

117. All information will be organized within a national sustainable agriculture platform, interoperable with systems of MGAP, MA, INIA and the National Environmental Observatory. The platform will consolidate environmental indicators, planning tools, technical manuals, success cases and regulatory repositories, ensuring quality protocols and differentiated access to support both public and private decision making.

118. Knowledge mobilization will be carried out through dialogue platforms, living laboratories, communities of practice, multi-format communication materials, continuous training processes and spaces linked to the GEF Transformational Dialogue approach. Communication and dissemination

strategies will explicitly incorporate inclusive and non-sexist language to ensure equitable representation and accessibility for women and men involved in agricultural systems. The objective is to ensure that knowledge transcends the technical sphere and translates into decisions, behavioral change and large-scale adoption of sustainable practices. The knowledge products generated will remain as public goods, reusable by future GEF and GCF projects, national policies and producer organization programs, thereby consolidating a sustained trajectory of innovation, resilience and sustainability in Uruguayan agriculture.

119. The project will promote inclusive knowledge management and communication processes that recognize and reflect the distinct roles, experiences and contributions of women and men in the transition towards sustainable agriculture. Particular attention will be given to ensuring that women and their organizations are effectively engaged in the generation, exchange and dissemination of knowledge, while strengthening their capacities and visibility as key actors in scaling sustainable practices. Communication and outreach efforts will be tailored to different audiences, taking into account gender-related differences in access to and use of information. Mechanisms will also be established to gather feedback from women and men in order to enhance the relevance, usefulness and applicability of knowledge products throughout project implementation.

120. To ensure the quality, scalability, and long-term sustainability of capacity development initiatives, the project will use FAO Campus as the institutional platform to host the virtual training products developed within the framework of the project. FAO Campus will be involved from the initial stages of instructional design, content development, and pedagogical structuring, applying FAO's quality standards and methodologies for capacity development and knowledge management. This approach aligns with FAO's institutional guidelines on blended/virtual learning and ensures that training products remain accessible, up-to-date, and available beyond the project's lifecycle, enabling FAO to continue providing permanent and large-scale technical assistance to countries in the region.

Transformation, Innovation and Scaling

121. The project is explicitly designed as a transformational intervention aimed at reorienting Uruguay's agricultural system toward sustainable, regenerative production models compatible with soil conservation, biodiversity protection and ecosystem service enhancement. Innovation will operate at three interdependent levels. First, at the technological and productive level, the project will promote advanced sustainable soil management practices, diversified rotations, integrated crop–livestock systems, cover crops, nature-based solutions and precision agriculture tools, supported by monitoring systems for soil organic carbon, biodiversity and soil health. In this latter dimension, continued research and field validation will be required to refine physical, chemical and biological indicators across representative soil groups. These innovations will not only enhance farm level productivity and resilience but also establish technical standards for landscape level scaling.

122. Second, at the institutional level, the project introduces a multistakeholder governance mechanism grounded in the GEF Transformational Dialogue approach, integrating public institutions, family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producer organizations, universities, research centers, exporting companies, service providers and financial institutions. This represents an innovation in agricultural and environmental policy design, as scaling will be guided by consensus building, social learning and operational agreements that reduce asymmetries among actors and align public and private incentives.

123. Third, the project incorporates economic and market innovations by promoting green financial instruments, sustainability criteria within agricultural value chains, environmental traceability, voluntary certifications and sustainable commercial agreements with leading companies. This enables scaling to be driven not solely by public action, but also by market mechanisms capable of generating sustained signals that favor regenerative practices across thousands of farms.

124. Scaling will be achieved through a three pillar strategy: (i) territorial replication, leveraged through cooperative networks, producer associations and extension platforms reaching farmers at different scales; (ii) integration within agricultural value chains through agreements with agro-industries, exporters and seed companies operating at scale; and (iii) alignment of public policy instruments and financing mechanisms to ensure enabling conditions for continuous adoption beyond the project duration. Collectively, these pathways will enable demonstrated innovations to evolve into systemic change, consolidating a more resilient, biodiverse and nature positive agricultural system in Uruguay.

125. The project is contributory and complementary to Uruguay's environmental commitments, including the National Biodiversity Strategy and the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme for 2030, particularly by enhancing planning instruments, tools and strategic frameworks aimed at achieving nationally defined environmental results.

126. With respect to improving coherence among public policy instruments, the project will formulate the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture, establishing an official definition of sustainable agriculture, a set of parameters and indicators, and a critical pathway for implementation. The Strategy will harmonize and integrate concepts, definitions and strategic objectives embedded in existing national policy frameworks, strengthening alignment across sectoral instruments and ensuring consistency in the pursuit of sustainability outcomes.

127. In addition, as a key input to the Strategy, the project will identify opportunities for the development of enabling incentives, including economic, fiscal and financial instruments, to promote adoption of sustainable agricultural approaches. These measures will contribute to aligning policy signals, investment flows and regulatory frameworks with the long-term transition toward sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

Capacity Development for Sustainable Agriculture

128. The project integrates the GEF capacity development approach in a cross-cutting manner, recognizing that the transition toward sustainable, regenerative and biodiverse agriculture requires simultaneous strengthening of individual, organizational and systemic capacities. This framework ensures that technical and productive changes are sustained over time and expanded territorially, guaranteeing that transformation does not rely solely on isolated interventions, but rather on an institutionally robust and socially committed ecosystem.

129. At the individual level, the project will promote the development of knowledge and practical skills among family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers, technicians, extension agents, service providers and territorial support teams. This will be achieved through participatory methodologies, co innovation processes and demonstration spaces that not only transfer sustainable technologies and practices, but also transform perceptions, motivations and attitudes regarding soil use, biodiversity and ecosystem services.

130. At the organizational level, the intervention will strengthen public institutions such as MGAP, MA, INIA and OPP, as well as cooperatives, producer associations and private entities that form part of the productive system. This involves enhancing capacities in planning, coordination, information management, environmental monitoring, technical assistance and territorial articulation. The project will support the development of tools, protocols and internal mechanisms that enable these organizations to function as stable nodes of knowledge generation, innovation and sustained extension.

131. At the systemic level, the project will contribute to consolidating an enabling environment by strengthening regulatory frameworks, public policies and economic instruments that guide production decisions. The establishment of a multistakeholder transformational dialogue will align visions, reduce asymmetries and generate agreements among public institutions, family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers, academia, private companies and financial actors, fostering a governance system capable of sustaining long term change processes.

132. The strategy to achieve these capacity outcomes combines four pillars: i) diagnostics and application of GEF tools to establish baselines and targets; ii) institutional and policy strengthening through governance platforms and technical cooperation mechanisms; iii) social learning through co innovation processes, continuous training and network building; and iv) consolidation of information and monitoring systems capable of informing evidence based decision making at both policy and farm management levels.

133. This approach will enable the scaling of good practices through three complementary pathways. First, diffusion among producers and organizations that, once strengthened, become natural multipliers of sustainable practices. Second, institutional and policy reinforcement creates enabling conditions for adoption beyond the scope of the project. Third, integration of the private sector, including agro exporters, seed companies, technical service providers and financial institutions, which through standards, incentives and environmental traceability drive sustainable transformation within agricultural value chains.

[1] Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca (Uruguay). Sostenibilidad Ambiental y Social [Environmental and Social Sustainability]. Available at: Gub.uy

[2] Usability is a central concept in the design of websites and applications, referring to the ease with which users can interact with a product to complete specific tasks. <https://www.arimetrics.com/glosario-digital/usabilidad>

[3] In particular, the soil microbiology group (Natalia Bajsa is one of the researchers in this group).

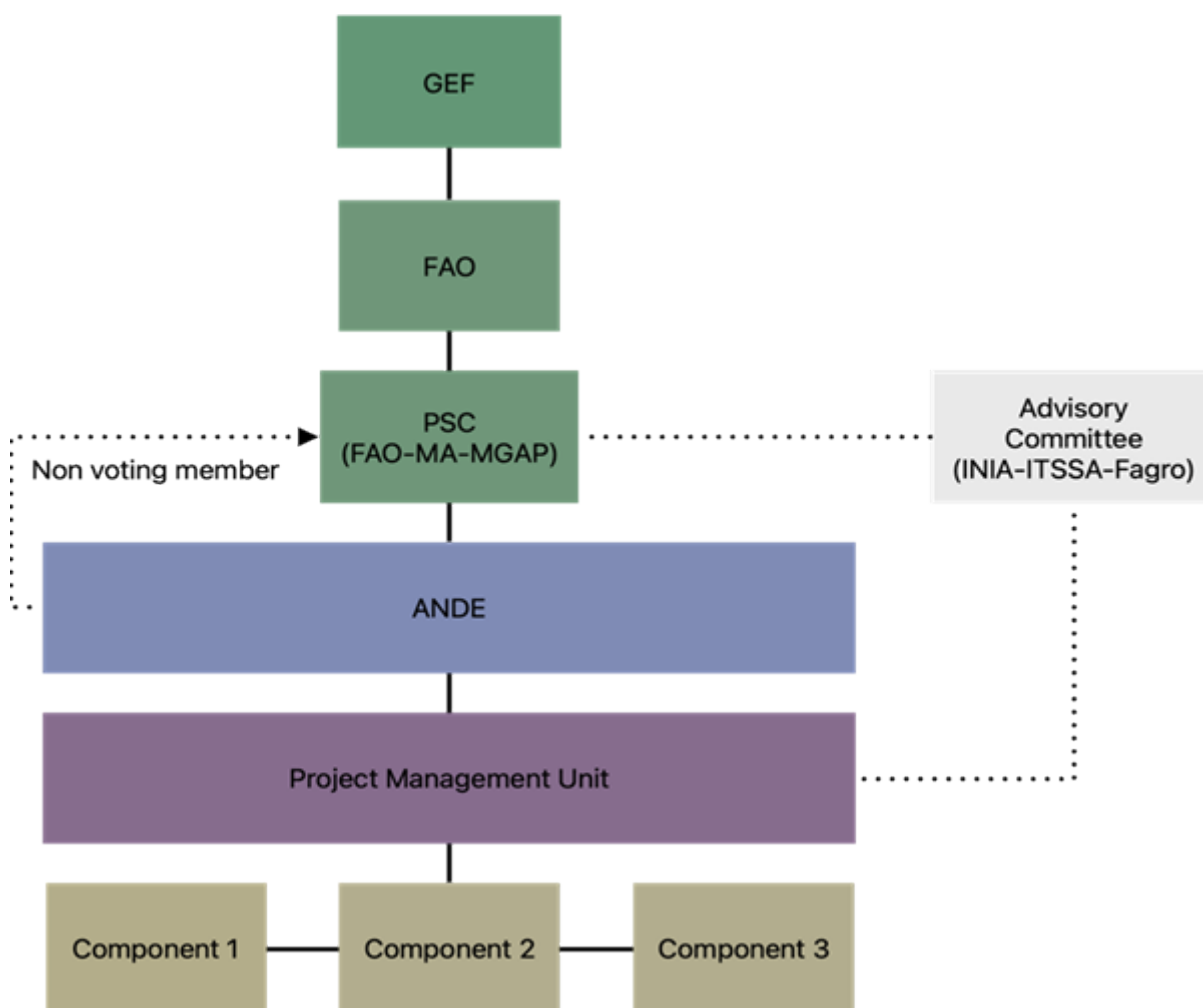
Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

134. The **National Development Agency** (*Agencia Nacional de Desarrollo* - ANDE) will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results

entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO^[1]. As Operational Partner (OP) of the project the ANDE is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

135. The project organization structure is as follows:



134. The Government may designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located in the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. He/she will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on Government policies and priorities.

135. MGAP will chair the Project Steering Committee which will be the main governing body of the project. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

136. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from MGAP, the Ministry of Environment (MA) and FAO. ANDE will join the PSC as a non-voting member. The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project. In addition to the Project Steering Committee, a Co-Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) will be established as an advisory body to the PSC. The Committee may include representatives from INIA, ITSSA and academic institutions, either on a permanent basis or on an ad hoc basis when invited by the PSC. The CTAC will provide technical inputs, support the analysis of implementation progress and results, and contribute to the validation and scaling up of good practices promoted by the project.

137. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex M for details):

The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution;

The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;

The Funding Liaison Officer(s) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

138. FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- • Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- • Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- • Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- • Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- • Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- • Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

N/A : FAO is not playing an execution role on this project

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

142. In Uruguay, multiple investments have been implemented within the agricultural sector to address climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. The project will coordinate and complement the following sectoral initiative

- i. **Uruguayan Agroecological and Climate Resilient Systems Project.** Implemented by MGAP and financed by the World Bank with an allocation of USD 35.5 million, this project aims to: (i) strengthen public agricultural systems and rural producers to enhance climate change adaptation and mitigation actions and promote agroecological production; and (ii) ensure effective response to crises or emergencies. Coordination mechanisms exist between components of both projects, particularly in institutional strengthening, information systems development and agroecological approaches.
- ii. **Platform for the Development of Tools and Capacities for Sustainable Productive Transitions in Uruguay.** Financed by INIA under FPTA 384, this initiative is generating data, knowledge and collaborative spaces to foster sustainable production systems. It supports INIA in informing public policy design for sustainable productive transitions through research, sustainability indicator analysis and the development of monitoring, evaluation and learning systems using large scale datasets. It also promotes stakeholder participation and consensus building, strengthening governance processes in productive transitions.
- iii. **Other GEF Projects.** The project is strategically embedded within a broader ecosystem of national and regional GEF investments that have generated highly relevant technical, institutional and productive capacities for advancing a sustainable and climate resilient agricultural system in Uruguay. Coordination with these initiatives will enable the capitalization of proven results, avoidance of duplication, promotion of synergies and ensure that new interventions are built upon established evidence, successful practices and strengthened institutional frameworks.
- iv. **Projects focused on the environmentally sound management of pesticides, such as the MSP “Strengthening Capacities for the Environmentally Sound Management of POP Pesticides” (GCP/URU/031/GFF, GEF ID 5144),** have generated key knowledge on integrated chemical risk management and strengthened national mechanisms for managing the life cycle of agricultural inputs. These achievements provide essential technical inputs for transitioning toward more sustainable production systems with reduced reliance on agrochemicals, in alignment with the objectives of this project.
- v. **Regional initiatives such as TF/GCP/RLA/231/GFF “Integrated Binational Water Resources Management in the Laguna Merín Basin” (GEF ID 10550)** have strengthened water

governance, watershed management and efficient water use, which are critical components for ensuring environmental sustainability in intensive agricultural systems. These lessons are fundamental for designing productive practices that integrate water management as a core sustainability dimension.

- vi. The global project “Strengthening Investment for the Adoption of Alternatives and Sustainable Pesticide Management” provides innovative green financing models, mechanisms to reduce harmful input use and market-based approaches that incentivize sustainable practices. These tools will inform the project’s exploration of incentive schemes, climate finance mechanisms and engagement with export and agro industrial value chain actors.
- vii. Similarly, projects focused on grasslands and sustainable livestock systems, including GCP/GLO/530/GFF (GEF ID 5724) and “Climate Smart Livestock Production and Soil Restoration” (GCP/URU/034/GFF, GEF ID 9153), have generated participatory methodologies, land degradation monitoring systems and successful co innovation experiences for sustainability. These results will be directly integrated into the project approach, particularly in the development of the sustainable practices catalogue, degradation indicators and knowledge management systems.
- viii. Finally, the project GCP/URU/11061/GFF “Land Degradation Neutrality for the Conservation of Grassland Biodiversity” (GEF ID 11061) provides a strategic framework aligned with Uruguay’s international commitments on Land Degradation Neutrality, reinforcing the project’s coherence with national priorities for conservation and sustainable management of productive ecosystems.

143. This landscape of investments allows the project to build upon a solid foundation of installed capacities, technical evidence, innovative practices and institutional arrangements currently under consolidation. The systematic integration of these lessons will amplify impact, strengthen sectoral governance and accelerate the transition toward a sustainability oriented agricultural model.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5000	5000	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland		5,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11000	11000	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11,000.00	11,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	2617259	4292297	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	2,617,259	3,223,741		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2026	2045		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)		1,068,556		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2026		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,590	1,590		
Male	1,590	1,590		
Total	3,180	3,180	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

- Core Indicator 3 – Area of land and ecosystems under restoration, specifically sub-indicator 3.1 on degraded agricultural land under restoration. Measurement includes: (i) identification of degraded areas by producer type, through the integration of FAO GSOCmap data, metadata from MGAP and MA, and information from rural development platforms in Soriano, Colonia, Río Negro

and Paysandú; (ii) implementation of cost-effective sustainable practices; and (iii) monitoring of soil organic carbon, structure and fertility, erosion reduction, and overall soil health.

- Core Indicator 4 – Area of landscapes under best practices, specifically indicator 4.3 on sustainable management in production systems. Targets were agreed with by ministries, research institutions (INIA, ITSSA, FAGRO) and producer organizations. Achievement is linked to outputs 2.1.2 (indicator design), 2.1.3 (validation of practices with a gender-responsive approach), and 2.1.4 (scaling up). The methodology includes: (i) baseline assessment of soil and biodiversity; (ii) implementation of sustainable practices; and (iii) monitoring of soil organic carbon, biodiversity, and contaminants in soil and water.
- Core Indicator 6 (GHG emissions mitigated) was estimated using NEXT over a 30-year period, comprising 3 years of project implementation and 27 years of capitalization. The project presents a net carbon balance of -1,068,556 tCO₂e, representing the difference between the project and without-project scenarios.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	The climate analysis for the departments of the Agricultural coast classifies the risk as low (-0.29) in all scenarios and horizons, indicating that the project does not face critical threats. However, risks associated with recurrent droughts, increases in maximum temperatures, heavy rainfall events, seasonal variability and the modulating effect of ENSO are recognized. These dynamics can affect yields, water availability, soil quality, and pressure on pastures. Mitigation measures: Although the risk is low, the project incorporates precautionary and resilient measures to ensure long-term sustainability. Among them: soil management and conservation to reduce erosion and increase organic matter; diversification of production systems; climate-smart agriculture practices; strengthening local capacities; and access to agroclimatic information, early warnings and planning tools. These measures are aligned with Uruguay's NAPs and contribute to reducing structural vulnerability and strengthening the sector's incremental and transformative adaptation.
Environmental and Social	Low	The project presents a low environmental and social risk according to the ESS Checklist. It does not generate habitat conversion, pollution, community tensions or gender inequalities. The project has a strong public policy design approach to promote the transition to sustainability in agriculture, which incorporates harmonization of the framework of public, economic, and environmental policies, including the dimensions of gender equality. Moreover, the project will survey and scale up sustainable practices, including nature-based solutions. No negative externalities are identified, on people and ecosystems, because the practices to be piloted are considered positive for

		nature. However, although the risk is low, the project contemplates some mitigation measures such as the adoption of sustainable practices, sustainable land and water management, inclusive participation, complaint mechanisms, gender approach, and capacity building in climate adaptation. Overall, the project improves resilience and does not involve significant impacts.
Political and Governance	Low	Uruguay is a politically stable country and the likelihood of political and governance risks is low; However, to mitigate this risk, cooperation with key government institutions will be strengthened and monitoring mechanisms will be established to anticipate and respond in a timely manner to eventual changes in the political environment.

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Low	The project is implemented within a well-established institutional and policy framework that strongly supports sustainable agricultural transformation. Key institutions, including MGAP, MA, INIA, and other relevant stakeholders, are actively engaged and aligned with the project's objectives, ensuring a high level of ownership and coordination. While minor risks may arise from coordination challenges across institutions or policy adjustments over time, these are considered limited. The project builds existing strategies, regulatory frameworks, and inter-institutional mechanisms, which significantly reduce uncertainty. Mitigation measures include strengthening coordination platforms, ensuring continuous policy dialogue, and embedding project interventions within national strategies and institutional mandates. Overall, the enabling environment and strong institutional commitment result in a low level of risk.
Technological	Moderate	The project entails technological and production-level risks associated with the implementation of digital tools and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. On the technological side, risks relate to potential system failures, limited interoperability, gaps in digital capacities, and low rural connectivity, which may affect the effective use of information systems for agro-environmental monitoring and decision-making. These risks will be mitigated through targeted digital capacity development, ensuring interoperability with national systems, the use of secure platforms aligned with data protection policies, and the establishment of backup, maintenance, and technical support mechanisms. Additionally, tools will be designed with low technological requirements to ensure accessibility, particularly for family farmers. At the production level, risks are associated with the adoption of sustainable practices, including cost barriers, uncertain cost-benefit perceptions among producers, and potential resistance to change. Mitigation measures will focus on promoting participatory innovation processes with producers and their organizations, demonstrating the economic viability of practices through validation and cost-benefit analysis, and providing incentives such as green financing, fiscal benefits, and enabling mechanisms (e.g. land-use planning and leasing arrangements). The project will also prioritize the identification and scaling of cost-effective practices to facilitate adoption.

Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The transition towards sustainable agriculture represents a structural shift in key economic variables, including technology costs, access to financing, land-use time horizons, and market responses. These factors, driven by profitability considerations, may affect the adoption of sustainable practices by producers. A related challenge is the limited market recognition and valuation of sustainability in commodity markets, particularly for cereals and oilseeds. To mitigate these risks, the project will engage producers through a living laboratory approach, fostering participatory innovation processes and generating robust evidence on the cost-effectiveness of sustainable practices. This will support informed decision-making and strengthen the positioning of sustainability and environmental responsibility within the sector. In addition, the project will address market-related constraints by engaging intermediaries involved in processing and export value chains, promoting the development of corporate environmental responsibility and reputational incentives that can help compensate for the current lack of market-based rewards for sustainable production.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	In Uruguay, public institutions in general have solid institutional capacities, which facilitates the implementation of projects and programs. For this project, the execution will be developed by ANDE, a solid organization in technical, operational, administrative and information systems terms. ANDE has the technical and operational capacity to implement sustainable productive development projects, articulating financing, technical assistance and territorial coordination, integrating environmental criteria, innovation and sustainability in multisectoral programs with a national scope.
Fiduciary	Low	ANDE, as the implementing agency selected by the FP, has solid fiduciary capacities. This includes information systems, traceability and reporting in accordance with the requirements of the GEF and FAO.
Stakeholder	Moderate	The project has been designed through a participatory process involving a broad range of stakeholders. While there is a strong core of committed institutions, including MGAP, MA, INIA, universities, family farmer organizations, cooperatives, and civil society, there remains a gap in engaging large private sector actors, particularly exporters and agro-industrial companies. To mitigate the risk of limited participation and strengthen engagement, the project will implement a combined strategy focused on capacity development, effective communication, and improved access to information. In addition, it will promote international exchange with companies and business associations that have advanced in sustainable production models, fostering knowledge transfer, building incentives, and enhancing the alignment of private sector actors with sustainability objectives.
Other		N/A

Overall Risk Rating	Low	According to the external risk analysis described above, the project has a low-risk category, which is consistent with the classification established in the Risk screening checklist.
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C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project Sustainable Agricultural Transformation: Toward a Biodiverse and Resilient System in Uruguay is fully aligned with the GEF-8 focal areas, contributing directly and strategically to the global objectives of land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Its systemic and territorial approach recognizes that productive sustainability depends on the functional integrity of agricultural ecosystems and on strengthening the institutionally enabling environment that supports the transition toward more efficient, diversified and resilient production models.

C1. Contribution to GEF-8 Focal Areas

Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA)

148. The project primarily contributes to Objective 1 of the Land Degradation Focal Area, which aims to avoid and reduce land degradation through Sustainable Land Management. The transformation of the agricultural system toward sustainable, biodiverse and climate resilient practices directly responds to the LDFA mandate to scale up SLM interventions that enhance productivity while maintaining and restoring the flow of essential agroecosystem services that underpin food security and rural livelihoods. This includes the adoption of agroecological intensification approaches, climate smart agriculture and drought resilient land management practices.

149. The project also aligns with Objective 4 of the Land Degradation Focal Area, which seeks to strengthen the enabling environment for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. Through Component 1, the project enhances policy coherence, institutional frameworks and financing mechanisms, consistent with planning and reporting obligations under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. It establishes a coherent, functional and participatory institutional framework for the sustainable transformation of agriculture, integrating the private sector and territorial stakeholders as active agents in governance and resource mobilization processes.

Climate Change Focal Area

150. The project adheres to the GEF objective of supporting transformative transitions toward net zero emissions and resilient development pathways. It contributes specifically to Pillar 1: promotion of innovation, technology development and transfer, and enabling policies for mitigation options with systemic impacts, and to Sub objective 1.4: Nature based solutions with high mitigation potential. The

proposed productive sustainability will generate significant co benefits in climate change adaptation, reduction of land degradation and improvement of rural livelihoods.

Contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

151. The project contributes to Goals A, B and D of the GBF, particularly to:

Target 10: ensure the sustainable management of areas under agricultural systems through biodiversity friendly practices (such as sustainable intensification, agroecology and innovative approaches), strengthening the resilience and efficiency of the food system, ensuring biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem services.

Target 11: restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including climate regulation, soil health, pollination and risk reduction, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem approaches.

C2. Alignment with National Priorities

152. The project strategy is closely aligned with Uruguay's voluntary commitments on sustainability, conservation and land degradation neutrality.

i) Land Degradation Neutrality Commitments (Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme – LDN TSP – 2030)

The project contributes to the voluntary LDN targets, which aim to maintain or reduce degradation relative to the year 2000 baseline; strengthen interinstitutional coordination; implement integrated sustainable land management policies; and promote national SLM strategies. In particular, the project contributes to:

Target 5:

- Increase the area under agroecosystems based on agroecological principles and in transition toward agroecology.
- Increase the number of producers adopting these practices.

Target 6:

- By 2025, avoid soil losses above tolerance levels across the entire agricultural area.

Target 7:

- By 2030, ensure that 80 percent of the cultivated area in priority sites applies guidelines contributing to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services.

153. The project will enable the achievement of these targets by strengthening institutional and technical capacities, improving territorial governance, promoting policy coherence, developing the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and building capacities among family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers and local actors under a gender equality approach.

ii) National Biodiversity Strategy (2016–2020): The project aligns with national strategic lines aimed at reducing ecosystem degradation and fragmentation, improving sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening knowledge, regulatory and compliance mechanisms. The Strategy prioritizes the reduction of natural habitat loss and sustainable resource management; objectives fully integrated into the project design.

iii) National Agricultural Adaptation Plan (PNA Agro): specifically in relation to the dimensions of production systems, ecosystems and natural resources, livelihoods and institutional capacities. The project contributes specifically to the “Adaptation and Mitigation” and “Inclusive Rural Development” strategies of the PNA Agro.

iv) National Climate Change Policy and Uruguay 2050 Agenda: particularly the transition toward sustainable production models with a low environmental footprint.

v) INIA Institutional Strategic Plan 2026–2030 (approved December 2025): Axis 1 “Sustainable production of food and fibers” (emphasis on sustainable intensification of livestock systems and improvement of agricultural productivity with climate resilience).

vi) Sectoral priorities in agriculture. The project directly contributes to national objectives for productive sustainability through the development and application of good agricultural practices that integrate production and conservation; the management of 80 percent of the agricultural area under biodiversity and ecosystem service friendly guidelines; the strengthening of instruments for forest sustainability; and the application of guidelines for the conservation of natural grasslands across 80 percent of the livestock area.

Coherence with the National Regulatory Framework

154. No contradictions have been identified with the current regulatory framework. However, the project recognizes the need to update, review and strengthen instruments and policies in order to create a robust enabling environment that ensures the sustainable transition of agriculture and the generation of long term global environmental benefits.

Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and Country Programming Framework

155. The project contributes to the Strategic Framework: PPA BE3 – Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture (45), as well as to BP2 Blue Transformation. In addition, the project contributes to SDG 2 Zero Hunger, target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather events, droughts, floods and other disasters, and progressively improve land and soil quality.

Country Programming Framework

156. Direct Effect 1.1: By 2025, Uruguay will have advanced toward sustainable production and consumption modalities, based on innovation, scientific knowledge and the incorporation of technology, strengthening resilience and equity.

157. MPP Output 1.1.2: “Agricultural producers strengthen their capacities and the authorities (MGAP, MA, MSP) have an institutional framework and public policy tools to restore and conserve terrestrial ecosystems, promoting food production modalities of recognized excellence at national and international levels.”

158. Workplan 2022–23: Output 1.1.2, No. 10769: “Agricultural and fisheries producers have capacities and the authorities (MGAP, MA, MSP) have an institutional framework and public policy tools to restore and conserve terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, promoting food production modalities of recognized excellence at national and international levels.”

159. In addition, the project contributes to Regional Initiative 3: Sustainable management of natural resources and climate change adaptation.

Lessons learned from past projects

160. The projects and initiatives that have been implemented in Uruguay over the past decades have generated an accumulation of lessons and knowledge that are being capitalized not only through technical reports, but also through the incorporation of lessons learned and good practices into project

design, permeating public policy decisions. Among these lessons are aspects such as monitoring, inclusive planning, training and co innovation, among others. The gender approach is a highly relevant and complex dimension that also shows signs of strengthening, although further efforts are still needed in this area.

161. The Agroecological and Resilient Systems in Uruguay (SARU) project financed by the World Bank highlights the fundamental importance of periodic monitoring as a key tool to assess the effectiveness of transitions toward agroecological systems. In addition, extensive training involving multiple public sector actors, private technicians and producers is presented as a key element to generate sustained institutional change. Finally, the importance of the co innovation approach is emphasized, integrating knowledge systems, exchange of experiences and adaptive management to operationalize territorial sustainability policies.

162. The Sustainable Livestock Uruguay program financed through the EUROCLIMA program constitutes an example of how lessons learned from previous projects can be scaled up and deepened. This project builds strongly on the experience of the Resilient Family Livestock and Livestock and Climate projects to further develop public policy dimensions that had begun to show initial impacts following their implementation. Specifically, the design of multidimensional sustainability indicators, monitoring of the three dimensions of sustainability (social, environmental and economic) in livestock production, and the institutional strengthening of producer organizations.

163. The Certification of Agroexport Products in Farms with Native Forest project implemented by AL INVEST gathers lessons learned regarding the potential of public certification systems as conservation instruments. In this regard, the importance of territorial participation and consideration of existing administrative records is highlighted, thus avoiding duplication of administrative burdens on producers. The multistakeholder workshop methodology was key to generating lessons learned documents on international forest certification experiences that proved relevant to the Uruguayan context.

164. The Resilient Family Livestock project (CNFR) gathers numerous lessons regarding the importance of involving community members in decision making and its impact on project legitimacy and sustainability. According to the evidence, the project approach is well suited to guide technical assistance aimed at supporting the implementation of good livestock practices in family farming systems.

165. The Livestock and Climate project (GEF ID 9153) highlights the need to adapt strategies according to changing conditions. In line with the Resilient Family Livestock project, it also underscores the importance of involving producer organizations to leverage local knowledge. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of Letters of Agreement as key management tools, although their effectiveness requires inclusive planning as well as team training in measurement and reporting.

166. The National Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Awareness in Uruguay (UTF/URU/037/URU) provides lessons on the most appropriate communication strategies for each target group (decision makers, sector actors and urban communities distant from rural life). Effective communication aligned with specific objectives is crucial to achieving the defined goals.

167. The Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change (DACC) project of the World Bank highlights that it is possible to achieve direct financing to producers while maintaining

environmental safeguards of multilateral institutions. In particular, the importance of establishing clear restrictive lists of non-eligible activities based on environmental criteria is emphasized.

168. At the same time, some challenges persist, such as the effective mainstreaming of gender and youth approaches across all project components, beyond isolated actions or pilot initiatives.

169. The accumulated experience in various sectoral initiatives reveals structural challenges associated with sustainability, scalability and institutionalization of the promoted changes. In the SARU project, difficulties were observed in consolidating agroecological practices beyond the financing horizon, particularly in farms with economic constraints or limited access to continuous technical assistance. Similarly, the Livestock and Climate project notes that the complexity of emission monitoring systems and economic productive and social indicators may constitute a barrier to scaling, underscoring the need to simplify instruments and strengthen territorial capacities.

170. In the case of the Resilient Family Livestock project, evidence shows that not all producers are able to sustain the promoted changes when these require additional investments or when they face adverse market conditions, underscoring the importance of strengthening financial instruments and risk management mechanisms. The Sustainable Livestock Uruguay program, in turn, highlights the challenge of integrating indicators and monitoring tools into public information and decision-making systems, ensuring that they do not remain confined to the project sphere. Similarly, the certification pilot with AL-INVEST reveals difficulties in securing sustained commitment from companies and farms, while the National Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Awareness emphasizes the need to maintain continuity in communication and education efforts, moving beyond isolated campaigns to establish enduring narratives about the role of agriculture in society.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ;

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low	Low		
Low			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

1. The Project has the potential to generate a broad range of additional environmental benefits that will significantly contribute to the sustainability and resilience of the country's agricultural system. In addition, it will generate integrated co benefits that simultaneously strengthen the productive base, rural livelihoods, and the provision of global environmental benefits. In the productive and economic sphere, the adoption of sustainable soil management practices, crop rotation diversification, and agroecological approaches will enhance yield stability. This will reduce variability associated with extreme climate events, lower degradation related costs, and consolidate the resilience of agricultural systems. Furthermore, the incorporation of sustainability and traceability criteria will enhance export competitiveness by aligning the country with markets that value lower environmental footprints and higher standards of responsible management.
2. At the social level, co benefits will translate into more stable and less vulnerable livelihoods. Strengthened technical capacities among family farmers, and medium- and large-scale producers, rural women, youth, and territorial actors will facilitate the adoption of technologies and practices that enable the transition toward sustainable systems. This capacity strengthening will not only increase resilience to production crises and climate shocks, but also position local actors as agents of change, enhancing their decision-making capacity, coordination, and leadership in productive and territorial management. In this way, the process promotes local ownership, social cohesion, and the sustainability of transformations beyond the project cycle.
3. Environmental co benefits will be reflected in the restoration of soil health, the reduction of erosion, and the recovery of agroecosystem functionality. Increased soil organic matter improves water retention, stabilizes key ecological processes, and contributes to climate change mitigation through enhanced carbon

sequestration. Likewise, the conservation of functional biodiversity within agricultural landscapes reinforces essential ecosystem services, such as pollination, water regulation, and biological pest control, which in turn sustain long term productivity.

4. From a climate perspective, the project strengthens resilience to droughts, heatwaves, and irregular precipitation patterns. The integration of nature-based solutions and adaptive management approaches enables producers and territories to respond more effectively to climate variability. In parallel, the generation of data, systematic monitoring, and strategic planning enhance institutional and productive adaptive capacity, supporting anticipatory and evidence-based management.

5. The social risk associated with Decent Work under this project is considered low, as the proposed activities do not involve infrastructure construction, large scale labor recruitment, or interventions that modify existing labor structures. The project focuses on technical assistance, institutional strengthening, and the adoption of sustainable practices, areas where exposure to occupational risks is limited. Promoted actions, such as sustainable soil management, diversified rotations, and agroecological practices, may in fact reduce traditional risks associated with the use of hazardous inputs. Furthermore, the project does not introduce dynamics that could generate child labor, forced labor, or discriminatory practices, and will operate within a robust regulatory environment supported by institutions that enforce adequate labor standards. The project will ensure that project staff comply with national employment and labor legislation, as well as relevant international commitments, and will strengthen the protection and promotion of occupational health and safety.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Uruguay	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-4	Grant	431,621.00	41,004.00	472,625.00
FAO	GET	Uruguay	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM- 1-4	Grant	431,621.00	41,004.00	472,625.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						863,242.00	82,008.00	945,250.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Uruguay	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4	25,000.00	2,375.00	27,375.00
FAO	GET	Uruguay	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-4	25,000.00	2,375.00	27,375.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Uruguay	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					1,000,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCM-1-4	GET	431,621.00	3448396
LD-4	GET	431,621.00	3448396
Total Project Cost		863,242.00	6,896,792.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment (MA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2663607
Recipient Country Government	The National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	266180
Others	Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Transitions (ITSSA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	315500
Others	Faculty of Agronomy (Fagro), Universidad de la República.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	298847
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	352658
Total Co-financing				6,896,792.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Not Applicable

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	3/6/2026	Jeffrey Griffin		Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org
Project Coordinator	3/6/2026	Kattia Escudero		maria.escudero@fao.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Robert Bouvier	Minister	Ministry of Environment	2/11/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Project Objective and indicators targets: To achieve the transition of the Uruguayan agricultural system towards a sustainable and climate-resilient model.							
Component 1: Institutional and governance to lead the sustainable transition of agriculture.							
<u>Outcome 1.1:</u> Institutional capacities of MGAP and MA strengthened to lead the transition toward sustainable agricultural production paradigms, integrating environmental, economic and social sustainability, market alignment and climate resilience, under a gender responsive approach.	Project indicator No. 1 Number of public policy instruments for the transition to sustainable agriculture, approved.	0	1	1	Ministerial Resolution approving the ENAS	There is political will to promote institutional adaptation processes for sustainable productive transformation.	MGAP and MA
	Project Indicator No. 2: Number of institutions that have improved capacities for monitoring and monitoring indicators for sustainable transition in	0	1	2	Report on improvements in the monitoring systems of sustainable agriculture indicators by the MGAP and MA. Reports generated by the monitoring systems on the performance of the indicators.		

	agriculture						
<u>Output.1.1.1.</u> Comprehensive diagnostic assessment of the status of the agricultural production system in relation to the sustainable and climate resilient transition, under a gender responsive approach.	Diagnosis of the state of affairs in the transition to sustainability of agriculture in Uruguay, with a gender perspective	0	1	1	Diagnostic documents on challenges, gaps and barriers to agricultural sustainability, with a gender approach.	Ministries and stakeholders have and provide secondary information for analysis.	ANDE - FAO - MGAP - MA
<u>Output 1.1.2</u> Proposal for a National Strategy for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agriculture formulated, with a gender responsive approach.	National Sustainable Agriculture Strategy formulated Percentage of women participants in ENAS design spaces with respect to the total number of	0 0	1 30%	1 50%	Final document of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture. Meeting minutes of the dialogue spaces	The MGAP and the MA, with the interested parties, have reached the necessary political agreements for the definition and scope of sustainable agriculture in Uruguay	FAO - MGAP- MA ANDE

	participant s.						
Output 1.1.3. Information systems strengthened within MGAP and MA for the management, monitoring and analysis of sustainable agriculture indicators and practices, under a gender responsive approach. -	Operational interface to manage knowledge and enhance the monitoring of sustainable agriculture indicators, which allows the disaggregation of data by sex and the monitoring of gender indicators.	0	1	1	Developed and operational interface for knowledge management and monitoring of sustainable agriculture indicators, allowing for disaggregation of data by sex and monitoring of gender indicators.	There is interest from the MGAP through the Directorate of Natural Resources to host the interface on the official websites.	ANDE-MGAP, MA
<u>Output 1.1.4</u> Resource mobilization mechanisms designed for scaling up sustainable and resilient agriculture, under a gender	(GEF Core 11 indicator) Number of people trained on environmental and climate financing mechanisms, disaggregated by	0	6	10	List of participants	Uruguay is eligible for competitive funds for environmental financing and climate adaptation or mitigation.	ANDE, MGAP, MA

responsive approach.	institution and sex.						
	Number of concept notes formulated and presented.	2	1	2	Concept notes to be submitted to a special environmental/ climate finance fund.		
Outcome 1.2 Governance strengthened to advance the transition toward sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, under a gender responsive approach.	Project Indicator No. 3 Number of strategic decisions on sustainable agriculture taken jointly by MA and MGAP through the inter-agency mechanism. Project Indicator No. 4: Number of agreements reached through dialogue	0	1	2	Joint resolutions on the integration of productive and environmental policies.	There is political will on the part of the authorities of the MGAP and the MA, to establish agreements for the integration of environmental and social policies.	MGAP-MA-ANDE

	spaces to promote the transition to sustainable agriculture, including measures with a gender approach.	0	1	2	Memorandum of Understanding signed by the participants of the dialogue space, which formalizes the definition of the concept of sustainable agriculture, its strategic objectives and the roadmap for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture.	The members of the Agricultural Table are receptive to dialogue around the sustainable transition of agriculture.	
Output 1.2.1 Formal interinstitutional coordination mechanism between MA and MGAP established and operational to integrate and align environmental and productive policies in support of accelerating the sustainable transition.	Number of formal inter-institutional agreements signed between MA and MGAP that establish mechanisms for the integration or alignment of environmental and productive policies within the framework of the ENAS.	0	1	1	Formal inter-institutional agreement MA-MGAP signed and in force, which defines responsibilities, operational mechanisms and joint monitoring provisions for the integration and alignment of environmental and productive policies within the framework of the ENAS	There is political will in the leadership of the MGAP and the MA to establish mechanisms for the integration and alignment of environmental and productive policies.	

[illegible]

Component 2: Territories and landscapes managed under a sustainable agricultural transition approach.							
<u>Outcome 2.1</u> Increased adoption and scaling of sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices in productive landscapes, with a gender approach.	(GEF Core Indicator No. 4) Number of hectares of productive landscapes under sustainable management implemented, as an effect of the replication of the National Strategy for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture .	TBD	6,000	1,000 ^[1] ²⁷	Technical reports generated by the information system	The GoU effectively leads the process, and the necessary consensus is forged with territorial actors and members of agricultural value chains to promote sustainable , biodiverse and resilient productive transformation.	ANDE- INIA- ITSA- MGAP- MA-FAO

	(GEF Core Indicator No. 3) Number of hectares of agricultural land under restoration practices.	TBD	2,500	5,000	Technical reports generated by the information system.		
	(GEF Core Indicator No. 11) Number of people benefiting from sustainable land management processes.	TBD	1,000	1,000	List of direct beneficiaries of sustainable land management.		
	(GEF Core Indicator No. 6) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO ₂ e)				Technical reports on the impact of technologies on carbon fixation.		

		TBD	0	3,223,741			
-							
<u>Output 2.1.1</u> Systematic survey and characterization of sustainable agricultural practices, based on innovation and co-innovation processes, developed by agricultural research and academic entities, and implemented in productive farms, with gender sensitivity.	Number of practices surveyed on the premises. (GEF Core Indicator No. 3) Number of hectares under degraded soil restoration practices.	TBD	30	30	White Papers	The experimentation and validation systems assume commitments to sustainable, biodiverse and resilient agricultural transformation.	ANDE, INIA-ITSSA
		0	120 (60 MAC+ 60 INIA)	120	White Papers		
<u>Output 2.1.2</u> Baseline data and performance indicators established in pilot sites to monitor and evaluate progress toward the transition to	Number of indicators designed and evaluated, disaggregated by type	0	5	10	Measurement methodologies	INIA, ITSSA and Fagro, maintain interest in developing the platforms	ANDE, INIA-ITSSA

sustainable agriculture.							
<u>Output 2.1.3</u> Agricultural practices validated in commercial farms through cost benefit analysis, incorporating a gender responsive approach.	(GEF Core Indicator No. 3) Number of hectares under degraded soil restoration practices.	0	1,500	3,000	White Papers	Private actors actively participate in the testing of technologies and practices on their premises.	ANDE, INIA-ITSSA
	(GEF Core Indicator No. 4) Number of hectares of productive landscapes under sustainable , biodiverse and resilient practices.	0	2,500	5,000	White Papers		
	Percentage of women who participate in the process of validating sustainable technologies and solutions in	0	At least 25% participation of women.	At least 35-40% participation of women.	Participation lists disaggregated by sex.		

	commercial properties.						
<u>Output 2.1.4</u> Technical assistance provided to scale sustainable agriculture approaches at landscape level, incorporating a gender responsive approach.	Number of companies assisted to promote sustainable practices in their production systems. Number of departmental governments assisted during the escalation process. Number of gender considerations incorporated into technical assistance materials for scaling up sustainable agriculture.	0 0 0	1 1 At least 2-3 gender measures	2 1 At least 5-6 gender measures incorporated.	Technical progress and achievement reports White Papers Technical assistance materials developed.	There is interest from territorial actors to promote sustainable agriculture actions	ANDE, INIA-ITSSA

			incorporated.				
Component 3. Knowledge management and learning for engagement							
<u>Outcome 3.1</u> Improved stakeholder engagement for the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture, with a gender perspective .	Project Indicator No. 5: Number of public institutions that formally and sustainably co-lead the dialogue for the transition to sustainable agriculture .	0	3	3	Meeting Minutes	There is political will to lead the dialogue processes around the definition of roadmaps to move towards	ANDE-MGAP-MA-FAO
	Project Indicator No. 6: Number of entities that include in their work	0	10	15	Annual reports of the institutions	Stakeholders remain interested in promoting the adoption of sustainable	ANDE-MGAP-MA

	plans actions that promote the adoption of practices validated by the project for the sustainability of agriculture					practices in agriculture.	
	(GEF Core Indicator No 11) Number of women accessing knowledge and information.	0	700	1500	Reports on the scope of communication campaigns, including accounting for access to institutional platforms and networks.		
<u>Output 3.1.1</u> Training plan designed	Formulated Training Plan					Uruguay has national experts on	ANDE, MGAP, MA

and implemented on sustainable agriculture aimed at stakeholders (territorial actors and private actors), with a gender responsive approach.	(Curriculum) (GEF Core Indicator No 11) Number of people trained on sustainable agriculture approaches and practices, disaggregated by institution, sex and age.	0 0	1 50	1 100	Training Curriculum Document List of participants	sustainability and expertise in adult education.	
<u>Output 3.1.2</u> Knowledge management and dissemination strategy developed in support of extension mechanisms, incorporating a gender responsive approach.	(GEF Core Indicator No 11) Number of people accessing information on sustainable agriculture through effective means of communication, disaggregated by sex and age.	0 0	1,500 1	3,000 (1,500 Men, 1,500 Women) 1	Reports on the scope of communication campaigns, including accounting for access to institutional platforms and networks.	There is synchrony between the processes	ANDE, MGAP, MA

	Number of good practices documented	0	10	20	Document of good practices and lessons learned.	of generating information and knowledge with the communication units.	
	Number of news about sustainable agriculture published on social networks, media and/or websites.				Media Outreach Reports.		

[1] Considering that the project execution horizon is 36 months, and in coherence with the GEF's definition of outcome and with the Results-Based Management approach, the goals achieved in the pilots will necessarily be smaller in scale than those established at the outcome level. Consequently, its evaluation must be carried out from a prospective approach, aimed at assessing its potential for replicability, scaling and progressive contribution to the transition to sustainability.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Activity 1. Administration and Procurement for PPG Execution	2,300.00	0.00	2,300.00
Activity 2. Conduct analysis of policies, institutional frameworks, and environmental and social risks, including safeguards screening and preparatory assessments	13,500.00	13,500.00	0.00

Activity 3 Coordinate technical inputs and prepare project design elements, ensuring integration of stakeholder and GEF Secretariat feedback.	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Activity 4. Undertake safeguards assessments and prepare the project's Gender Action Plan in line with FAO and GEF requirements	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Activity 5: Prepare all documentation required to establish the project's executing partner arrangement, including drafting the Executing Agreement and compiling the institutional, fiduciary, and operational elements needed for submission as part of the project design package.	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Activity 6: Conduct an assessment of the prospective executing partner's institutional, operational, and fiduciary capacities to determine readiness and compliance with the requirements for project execution under the proposed project modality	3,750.00	0.00	3,750.00
Activity 7: Support travel for national consultants and experts to participate in consultations, field visits, and meetings required for project preparation.	1,150.00	0.00	1,150.00
Activity 8: Support international travel for technical experts contributing to analyses, consultations, and development of project documentation.	2,900.00	2,002.00	898.00
Activity 9: Organize and facilitate stakeholder consultations to gather inputs for project design, validate preparatory analyses, and ensure participatory formulation.	1,400.00	340.00	1,060.00
Activity 10. Conduct a national validation workshop to review and confirm the project's logframe, Theory of Change, indicators, and results framework with key stakeholders.	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00
Total	50,000.00	15,842.00	34,158.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Soriano Department	-33.51	-57.80	3,441,272

Location Description:

Main agricultural intervention area.

Activity Description:

Focused on sustainable land management and soil restoration.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Colonia Department	-34.27	-57.85	3,443,017

Location Description:

Mixed agricultural and dairy production systems.

Activity Description:

Promotion of sustainable and climate-resilient practices.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Río Negro Department	-33.10	-57.90	3,442,956

Location Description:

Grain-producing zone.

Activity Description:

Sustainable soil management and biodiversity-friendly practices.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Paysandú Department	-32.32	-57.90	3,441,242

Location Description:

Extensive agriculture area.

Activity Description:

Implementation of sustainable and climate-resilient production models.

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

The Agricultural Littoral region, comprising the departments of Colonia, Soriano, Río Negro and Paysandú, constitutes one of the country's main agro productive hubs, characterized by predominantly mechanized extensive agriculture under soybean–maize–wheat rotation schemes combined with improved pastures. This model is marked by high levels of technological intensification, expansion of cultivated areas, and concentration of annual crops in zones with high agricultural suitability. Agricultural land cover exceeds 60% in Colonia and Soriano, resulting in highly specialized territories focused on commodity production.

From a landscape perspective, the current land use configuration has led to progressive territorial homogenization, reducing the structural heterogeneity that previously integrated native grasslands, riparian forests, wetlands and biological corridors. This functional simplification diminishes the ecological resilience of the system, weakens habitat connectivity, and reduces the provision of critical ecosystem services, such as water regulation, nutrient retention, soil structural stability, and maintenance of soil organic carbon stocks.

In terms of environmental challenges relevant to the GEF, the interaction between productive intensification and edaphic susceptibility generates direct pressures on land degradation, carbon organic soil loss, and watershed deterioration. These processes contribute to long term declines in productivity and to broader environmental impacts, including emissions associated with changes in soil carbon and adverse effects on biodiversity within agricultural landscapes.



Figure 1 – River basins

In the absence of structural intervention, the business-as-usual scenario would maintain a production model centered on short-term efficiency, without fully internalizing cumulative environmental costs. In this context, the transition toward sustainable agriculture—based on integrated soil management, a landscape approach, and the functional restoration of ecosystem services—constitutes a transformational response aligned with the GEF focal areas of Land Degradation, Biodiversity, and Climate Change. Key variables are derived from official maps and datasets, including land cover and land use (Ministry of Environment, 2021–2022), erosion susceptibility (INIA, 2023), soil organic carbon stocks (FAO GSOCmap and national references), and spatial overlap with watershed systems.

Land Use and Land Cover

Data Description and Methodology: The annual land use and land cover maps (2021–2022) produced by the Ministry of Environment are generated through supervised classification of satellite imagery (primarily Landsat and Sentinel), complemented by field validation and demonstrating high overall accuracy. The main land cover classes include natural and improved pastures, annual crops, forestry plantations, native vegetation, urban areas, and water bodies (Ministry of Environment, n.d.-a).

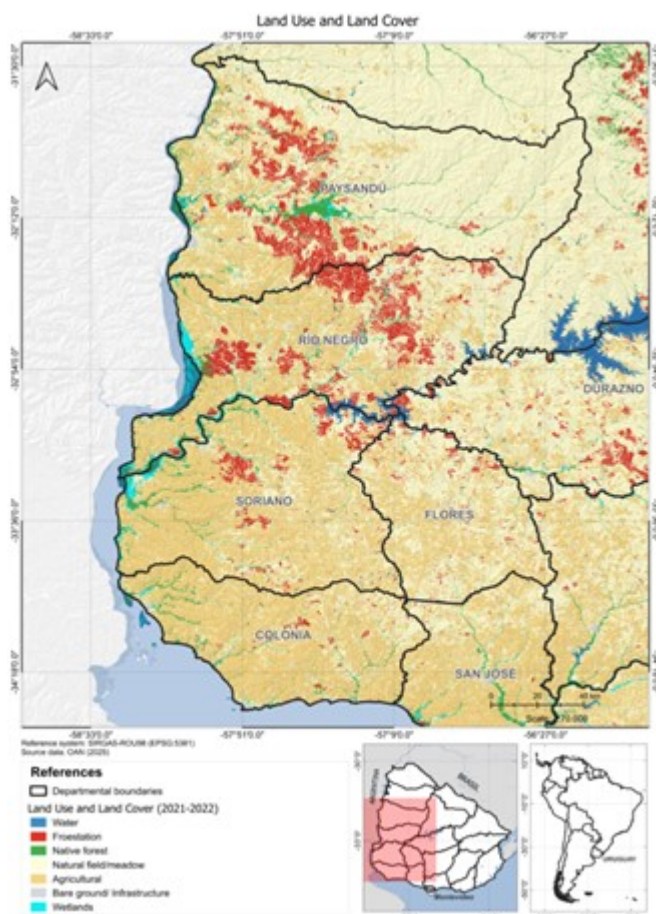


Figure 2 – Land cover/land use

Table 1 – Percentage of Land Use and Land Cover by Department

	COLONIA	PAYSANDÚ	RÍO NEGRO	SORIANO
Agricultural	69%	19%	37%	60%
Wetlands	1%	1%	2%	1%
Forestation	2%	9%	14%	4%
Bare ground	1%	0%	0%	0%
Water	0%	0%	2%	2%
Native forest	4%	4%	4%	4%
Natural field	24%	65%	40%	28%

Soil Erosion Susceptibility

Data Description and Methodology: The INIA map estimates the soil erodibility factor (K factor) under the USLE/RUSLE framework, which measures the intrinsic susceptibility of soils to rainfall-induced erosion. A Linear Mixed Model (LMM) was applied using variables such as taxonomic soil classification, texture (clay/sand

content), parent material, and chemical composition, achieving an R^2 of 0.86 and an approximate predictive error of 9%. The dataset covers 99% of the continental territory at a 1:20,000 scale (National Institute of Agricultural Research [INIA], 2023).

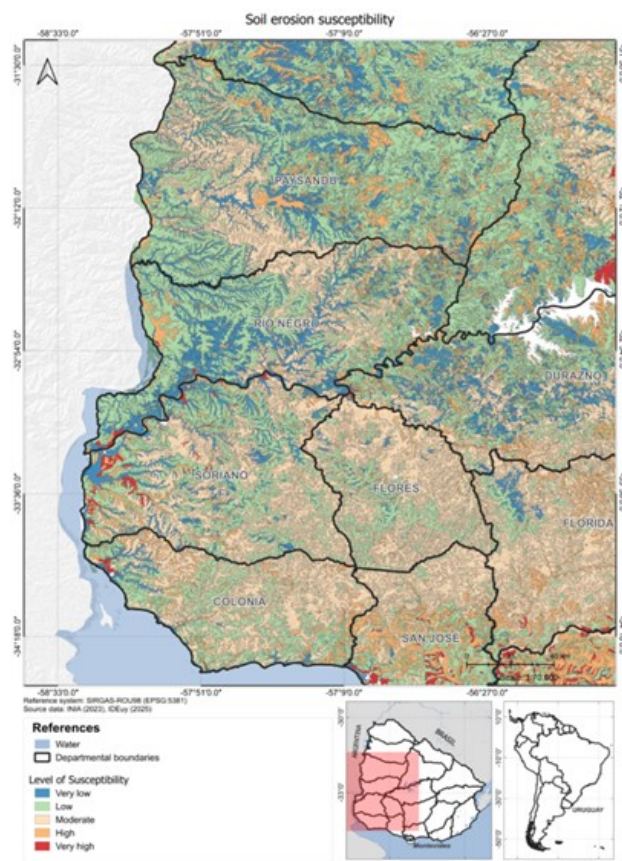


Figure 3 – Soil Erosion Susceptibility

Table 2 – Soil Erosion Susceptibility Levels

	RÍO NEGRO	COLONIA	SORIANO	PAYSANDÚ
Low	55%	32%	40%	59%
Moderate	24%	56%	46%	19%
High	6%	9%	6%	9%
Very high	0%	1%	2%	0%
Very low	15%	2%	5%	12%

Table 3 – Soil Erosion Susceptibility Levels by Department

Department	Mean K Factor
RÍO NEGRO	0.23365609
SORIANO	0.27113619
COLONIA	0.30886802
PAYSANDÚ	0.24214476

Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)

Data Description and Methodology: Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) stocks are based on FAO's Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap), with an approximate spatial resolution of 1 km.

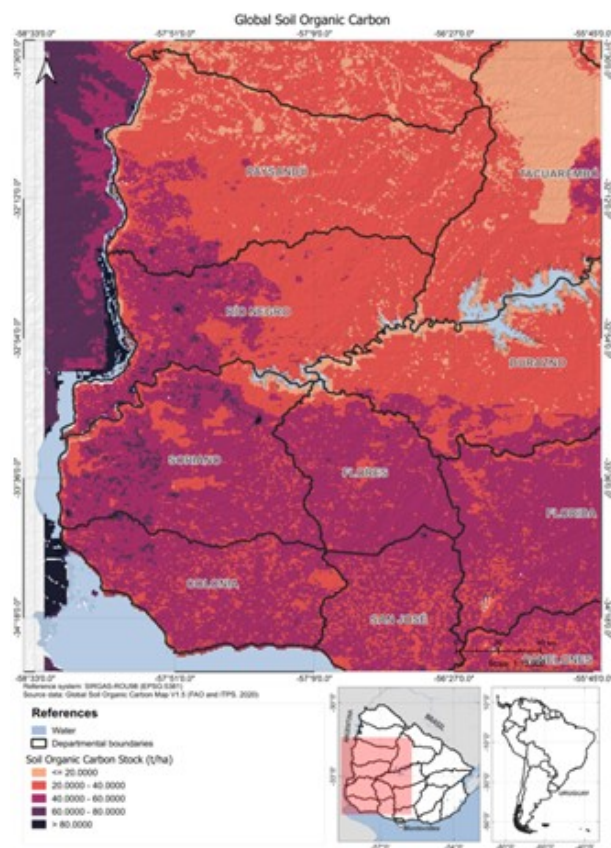


Figure 4 – Soil Organic Carbon

Table4 – Soil Carbon stocks

Department	Mean of Soil Organic Carbon Stock (t/ha)
Paysandú	28.9
Río Negro	39.1
Soriano	44.9
Colonia	43.8

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

ANNEX F1 Full ES Risk Screening checklist for project 756253

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)(1)
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	Sub-Total	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1					
Contractual Services – Individual	Project Coordinator	26,862	26,862	26,863	0	80,587	26,863	107,450	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Contractual Services – Individual	Administrative Assistant	0	0	0	0	0	36,000	36,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Contractual Services – Individual	Development communication specialist	0	0	43,200	0	43,200	0	43,200	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Contractual Services – Individual	Expert in evaluation, dialogue, and public policy formulation (policy maker)	20,000	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Contractual Services – Individual	Specialist in information systems and web page design	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Contractual Services – Individual	Specialist in environmental and climate finance	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Contractual Services – Individual	Gender Specialist	6,667	6,667	6,667	0	20,000	0	20,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Subtotal Contractual Services – Individual		83,529	33,529	76,730	0	193,787	62,863	256,650	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Platforms for the evaluation and validation of technologies using a living lab approach (ANDE agreement with the INIA-ITTSA-FAGRO consortium)		100,000			100,000		100,000	ANDE-INIA-FAGRO
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Validation of best practices on family farming and commercial farms, with a productive landscapes approach (ANDE agreement with the INIA-ITTSA-FAGRO consortium)		150,000			150,000		150,000	ANDE-INIA-FAGRO
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Technical assistance for scaling up at the territorial level in the departments of Colonia, Soriano, Río Negro, and Paysandú (ANDE agreement		203,800			203,800		203,800	ANDE-INIA-FAGRO

	with the INIA–ITTSA–FAGRO consortium)								
<i>Subtotal Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity</i>		0	453,800	0	0	453,800	0	453,800	
Contractual Services – Company	Mid-term spot check	0	0	0	3,500	3,500	0	3,500	FAO
Contractual Services – Company	Final audit	0	0	0	0	0	6,650	6,650	FAO
Contractual Services – Company	Terminal Evaluation	0	0	0	30,000	30,000	0	30,000	FAO
Contractual Services – Company	Terminal Report	0	0	0	6,550	6,550	0	6,550	FAO
<i>Subtotal Contractual Services – Company</i>		0	0	0	40,050	40,050	6,650	46,700	
Travel	International exchange trips to countries that have made progress in agricultural sustainability	6000	0	0	0	6,000	0	6,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Travel	Supervision/coordination trips	3000	5,700	3,000	0	11,700	0	11,700	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Travel	Travel for training/workshops and meetings	3600	3,600	3,600	0	10,800	0	10,800	National Development Agency (ANDE)
<i>Subtotal Travel</i>		12,600	9,300	6,600	0	28,500	0	28,500	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Project Inception workshop	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Multi-stakeholder dialogues to build consensus on the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy	17,000	0	0	0	17,000	0	17,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Institutional capacity building on transition approaches and LDN	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Inter-institutional validation and socialization of the roadmap (ENAS)	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Workshop for results revision and adaptation	2,283	2,283	2,283	0	6,850	0	6,850	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Regional workshops for adopting practices	0	0	12,000	0	12,000	0	12,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Sharing results and lessons learned	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	PSC Meeting	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	National Development

									Agency (ANDE)
<i>Subtotal Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</i>		23,283	2,283	15,283	1,000	41,850	1,000	42,850	
Office Supplies	Office supplies including stationery, printing materials, and computer consumables.	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
<i>Subtotal Office Supplies</i>		0	0	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	
Goods	Publications Training materials, manuals, and educational resources for capacity building workshops and sessions.	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	20,000	National Development Agency (ANDE)
<i>Subtotal Goods</i>		0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	20,000	
Other Operating Costs	Vehicles Operation And Maintenance	2,914	2,914	2,914	0	8,742	0	8,742	National Development Agency (ANDE)
<i>Subtotal Other Operating Costs</i>		2,914	2,914	2,914	0	8,742	0	8,742	
Grand Total		122,326	501,826	121,527	41,050	786,729	76,513	863,241	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

Table Summary of changes in project design between the PIF and Project Document

Subject	PIF	Project Document	Justification
Ultimate Goal	Transform Uruguay's agricultural production system towards a sustainable and climate-resilient model.	Achieve the transition of the Uruguayan agricultural system towards a sustainable and climate-resilient model.	The term transform, sustainable transition, is modified as an end. The difference is that the former seeks to change the system, while the latter deals with systematic processes of change and adaptation.
Output 1.1.2	Public policies, regulatory frameworks and updated	Merges with Output 1.1.1	Public policies, regulatory frameworks and updated

	incentives for productive transformation, incorporating a gender approach.		incentives for productive transformation, incorporating a gender approach.
Output 1.1.3	National Strategy for Sustainable, Biodiverse and Resilient Agricultural Transformation formulated, with a gender approach.	Merges with Output 1.1.1	MA and MGAP propose merging Output with 1.1.1 since the review of policies, frameworks and incentives is an input process for the elaboration of the National Agricultural Development Strategy.
Output 1.1.6	Comprehensive information system on sustainable and resilient agricultural transformation, designed and operational.	Make indicator information available on existing platforms and create new modules when appropriate.	MA and MGAP state that it is not necessary to create a new information system, but to organize and make available the existing information and create new specific modules.
Output 1.1.8	Comprehensive set of indicators on sustainable and resilient agricultural transformation, designed with a gender perspective.	It is integrated as an activity in output 1.1.1.2, formulation of the Proposal for the National Sustainable Agriculture Strategy and is added as a specific product for the measurement of indicators in the pilots.	MA and MGAP consider it more appropriate to move the product to Component 2.
Outcome 2.1	Improved governance for sustainable agricultural transformation, with a gender approach.	Improved governance for sustainable agricultural transition, with a gender approach. The outcome is modified	In general, the term Transformation by Sustainable Transition is modified. As described in the context, Transformation is a process of more radical change of the system, while transition is a systematic process of adaptation. The MGAP considers that the sustainable agricultural transition is more viable if achieved.
Outcome 2.1	Effective transition towards the sustainable and biodiverse transformation of implemented agriculture, with a gender-sensitive approach.	Increased adoption and scaling of sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices in productive landscapes, with a gender focus	Adjust the outcome syntax to clarify the scope
Output 1.2.2	Spaces for exchange and transfer of knowledge between established institutional actors.	The output is suppressed.	Spaces for dialogue and transfer are more effective once the project has produced and systematized viable solutions and

			there is technical and economic evidence. During the implementation phase, it is advisable to prioritize data generation and technical validation; Exchange spaces can be post-closure activities when they can facilitate the selection, dissemination, and scaling up of practices already supported by evidence.
Output 1.2.3	Multi-stakeholder dialogue platform on sustainable agricultural transformation established and operational.	The output is modified, due to the strengthening of existing spaces for dialogue.	The creation of a new institutional architecture is considered unnecessary, since there are multiple mechanisms for dialogue and articulation such as the Agricultural Roundtable and the Rural Development Roundtables.
Output 2.1.1	Sustainable and resilient solutions validated in research centres (INIA, DGDR, etc.)	Modification of wording	Systematization by academic and research institutions (INIA, ITSSA, Fagro, UDELAR, among others) of sustainable agricultural solutions and verification through implementation in commercial properties
Output 2.1.2	Joins PRODOC	Baselines and indicators have been generated in pilot sites, for the monitoring and evaluation of the changes associated with the transition to sustainable agriculture.	The development of farm indicators in the areas of the pilot sites is defined as an important product that generates inputs for the output 2.1.3 validations of good practices in farms.
Output 2.1.3	Territorial-scale sustainable agricultural transformation approaches tested within the framework of the Sustainable Agricultural Transformation Strategy, incorporating gender-sensitive indicators.	The output is suppressed.	The substance of the product is included in 2.1.1
Outcome 3.1	Improved access for stakeholders to information, knowledge and learning generated on sustainable and	Improved stakeholder engagement for the adoption of sustainable practices in agriculture, with a gender approach.	The scope of the outcome was modified, because in the diagnosis it was identified that the problem is not precisely access to information, but the

	resilient agricultural transformation, with a gender-sensitive approach.		need to move stakeholders to cultural changes in production systems based on sustainability.
Output 3.1.2	Mapping of good practices generated by territorial actors and agricultural value chains aligned with sustainable transformation.	It is combined with Output 1.1.3 and is taken up in Output 2.1.1 survey of good practices.	It is structured in an improved way as part of the diagnosis on the state of sustainability of agriculture, which at the same time serves as an input for the survey of good practices that will be developed in the La Estanzuela Platforms and EMAC.
Output 3.1.3	Established and operational virtual repository of information and publications.	Suggested wording modification.	Virtual repository of information and publications established and operational in Gub.uy.